Notes Regarding

The Day of Atonement

Prophetically the Day of the Lord!

The Day of Atonement - prophetically linked with the Day of the Lord.

"The seven last plagues are directly linked with the idea of the Day of the Lord. And the Day of the Lord, prophetically, is linked to the concept of the Day of Atonement. ... the Worldwide Church of God and the descendants which have flowed from it, have been woefully ignorant of the meaning of the Day of Atonement. ... the Day of the Lord - an event which is the most often prophesied event in the Bible."

Notes Regarding The Day of Atonement Prophetically the Day of the Lord!

by Michael C. Garrett

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Cover: The Fall Holy Days as a representation of the Fall harvesting of fields (cf. Deut. 16:16). And the terrible and dreadful Day of the Lord as a representation of a nuclear bomb exploding within a city (cf. Joel 2:2; Matt. 24:21-22).

Part 1

Old Covenant "nailed to the Cross"

I guess right now I'm speaking to people, that once upon a time, I went to church with. I don't go to church with these people anymore because they, well quite frankly, they don't want me around. But, now I'm free to tell the truth of God. Mark 7:6 - the Pharisees and scribes were practitioners of the Old Covenant, they had a major stake holding in the Old Covenant. The Old Covenant WAS their bread and butter, it WAS their income, it WAS their power. Without the Old Covenant the Pharisees and Scribes would not have a job. Verse 5 – "the tradition of the elders" IS the Old Covenant (all of the rigmarole, the temple elite, all the do's and the don'ts). A very burdensome form of religion. I would have absolutely hated to have lived under the Old Covenant. And, quite frankly, to the extent that I have been exposed to it in my lifetime, I can look back on those experiences, religious experiences, church experiences, and say, "I have contempt for what was taught," and for the POWER and the CONTROL that so-called religious leaders tried to exert over people who – in their heart and mind – were trying to follow God. It's just that they were very, very, badly misled, on so many topics - not everything.

Now, I respect the old *Worldwide Church of God* in many ways, and yet, in candor, and in all honesty, I've come to realize that many of the things which they attempted to teach they just simply didn't have it down correctly. As an example: The *Worldwide Church of God* taught (as doctrine) in the early stages of the church that all aborted babies were lost. Had no chance at life. Because, quote, as they said, "They had not received the breath of life." That theory, that idea, was actually borrowed from Protestant groups. I, of course, don't believe that. It's WRONG! It's NOT correct! Those dead babies will live again!

The great GOD of the universe, if He had the power to resurrect human beings that centuries ago had turned into dust and blown away, if He has that ability, and the Bible says He does, then surely that same great GOD would have the ability to bring back to life a young unborn child.

They reasoned, "Well, how would they live!?" Well, most of the women who had those abortions will be resurrected in the "Great White Throne Judgment" and what would keep GOD from saying, or through His messengers, "Look lady, you aborted this child, or these children once before, we're going to resurrect these children and put them back into your womb. And you better take very good care of them because your life is in the balance." "You take care of them, you get to live. You abuse them and murder them again, you will

NOT be walking anymore, you will be doomed." Now, if that's a problem, the great God Almighty and Jesus Christ could just take that young, unborn infant and just age it a few more months, so that now it would be full-term, nine months. And then it would have a chance to live.

Now, some people are comfortable in that old Cadillac that they've got. They think that they're Cadillac is perfect. They think it runs like a charm. And they DO NOT UNDERSTAND that the car in which they are travelling, is destined to crash and burn, and be destroyed. And, if they're still in that car they will suffer the same fate. And I know it's not a message that you're used to being told. You're told that your Cadillac is perfect and is going to go on forever. That's what you're told. That's what you hope, that's what you believe. But, it's not true. And I tell you, that group down in Tyler, and groups like them, they are almost totally invested in concepts and traditions of the Old Covenant. And, once again, last week, I read the 'Weekly Update' out of Tyler. Oh, I read a lot of political stuff, not one time did I see the word JESUS CHRIST! How can you walk through the doors of salvation with Jesus Christ if you are ashamed of the name Jesus Christ!? The Old Covenant ruled every aspect of your life. I don't know why so many of you voluntarily submit to it!?

Colossians 2:10 – "And you are complete in Him, who is the Head of all principality and power." Now, if you're in a group of people or an organization whose leader is ashamed of the name Jesus Christ, where does it leave you!? You're out in the cold, you're in that old Cadillac. **verse 13b**; "…alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses," that is the wonderful thing about the New Covenant! The Old Covenant did not give you forgiveness! **verse 14** - not taking a shot at the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments stands on its own! The Old Covenant was 'nailed to the cross' and replaced with the New Covenant, where Jesus Christ is the High Priest!

Colossians 2:16 – the weekly Sabbath and the annual Sabbath days ARE an outline for future events. Especially the fall holy days**. verse 17**- notice the word *is* is in italic, meaning it was added. The original meaning is 'let the Body of Christ (Jesus Christ Himself), let Him be your teacher,' and in the end He will be your judge. You know, the church that was out in Pasadena, from which I was associated with at one time and other groups, they totally DISTORT the meaning of this day (the Day of Atonement) – in my opinion.

They're all hung up on the words WAY BACK in the Book of Leviticus – 'Afflict your soul!' There's a guy who's an area coordinator, associated with Tyler, and I've heard him say with my own ears use the phrase, "God wants you to hurt!" I've never read that! I think they totally and completely distort the meaning of this day by their implementation of

'voluntary' humility - and Oh my, so many religious leaders are puffed up. Another thing, they obsessed with what's called the Azazel goat. A word in the Hebrew which is translated into English, meaning, "Scape goat." I thought it was boring 49-years ago, and it's infinitely more boring than I've ever considered before! It was a very historic item, long, long ago in the priesthood of Aaron, a priesthood which is two-thousand years ago, almost, and was DONE AWAY. And I really don't understand why people keep obsessing on this idea!? It was a valid event, way, way, thousands of years ago! It was an event which really has not a lot of relevance in the 21st century. I hope you can understand that. They spoke of things that were so distant and so irrelevant to our modern world. It just simply amazed me why are they obsessing on information that has very little practical meaning TODAY!? Especially in this day and age! Jesus Christ talked about the 'end of the world,' or the 'end of the age' in Matthew 24.

Leviticus 16:9 – Right here there's a little bit of an allusion to… the NEED to have a Savior, to have a SIN OFFERING. And that ancient ceremony, had a bit of a looking forward to the time when Jesus Christ would be the sin offering for all mankind throughout history – throughout the ages.

Verse 10 – Here you hear the word ATONEMENT. Now, back in the *Worldwide* days, and I've even heard it by leading minister's here in the last decade, they will actually say, "Well, look at the word atonement, it's a-t-o-n-e-m-e-n-t, what does that spell!? At-one-ment." Now, today, they have been many minister's and congregations across America and around the globe which have talked about, "The at-one-ment with God!" There is simply NO correlation between the word atonement and the phrase at-one-ment. They have nothing to do with each other! It's just a freak 'accident' of the language that you can divide at, one, and ment. Now, different ministers have attempted to describe this vague, hard to understand ceremony, from millennia ago – thousands of years ago, in an institution which NO LONGER EXISTS – the Aaronic priesthood does not exist anymore! It was replaced by the Priesthood of Jesus Christ! The Priesthood of Jesus Christ NOW supersedes the Levitical priesthood. We don't live in the Old Covenant anymore! We live in the New Covenant! We don't live in the Levitical Priesthood anymore, we live under the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. We don't live under the auspices of the Law of Moses, now we live our lives according to the Ten Commandments. The Law of God. There have been people who have just totally miss… I just don't think they want to know it. "I just want to hang on to that old-time religion. Well, that's what was taught 50-some years ago out in Pasadena, that's what Mr. Armstrong talked about, that's what Mr. Garner Armstrong talked about, so I'm going to talk about it!" Well, Mr. Armstrong, and Mr. Garner talked about that because *that's all they knew* at that time to talk about. That's not a cut, not a slam, it's just understanding reality. But the apostle Peter told us to grow in the grace and

in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ! And the MOST IMPORTANT area of growth you could ever have is understanding that Jesus Christ is our High Priest and we NOW live under the New Covenant and we are bound to be loyal to the Ten Commandments. So, this scapegoat was put out into the wilderness. I know that many ministers from the old days have said, "This goat was a type of Satan the devil." And quite frankly, I don't have a problem with that analogy. Analogies are analogies. And this is just an analogy. It's not far away from the concept of the parables of the New Testament. But do I think this could stand for Satan the devil!? Yes, I do. Am I going to worry about it!? No, I'm not, because Leviticus 16 has absolutely NOTHING, NOTHING to do with my salvation or your salvation.

You don't have to understand Leviticus 16 to have the love of Jesus Christ to be poured out upon you, His grace, His favor, His Spirit, and His promise of eternal life. Yet, back in those old days, three or four decades ago, they made you think that this was the crux of the Gospel. Obviously, it's not.

And, to this day, there are people who had their upbringing or their early training in the *Worldwide Church of God* who still try to convey this. **Verse 15 of Leviticus 16** – where many people believe represents Jesus Christ for the people. **Verse 21**, talking about the other goat, the live goat, the scapegoat, the Azazel goat: Now, many ministers of the *Worldwide Church of God* and different incarnations of it, believe that that might indeed be a symbolic Satan. But we really don't know, do we!? Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. It's not worth fighting about!

Verse 29 of Leviticus 16 – "…you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, …" Now, have minister's made hay out of that! I want to point out right from the get-go, THAT is a very poor translation. The phrase in Hebrew, the root of it, and the meaning of it is "you will HUMBLE yourself before the Lord." Now, does this mean a fast!? Many people say, "Yes, it does!" Jewish tradition says it does. Jewish tradition, if you're going to be a 'Jewish follower,' and follow their TRADITIONS, on the Day of Atonement, you're not supposed to eat or drink, not supposed to wear shoes made out of leather, not supposed to bathe, no cologne or perfume, or lotion, no sex – a whole list of things you cannot do! IF you follow 'Jewish tradition.' I also know of people who can stand up before you and with their Bible point out that – in the Bible – that there are three different types of fast's. And their all called fast's. 1) Situation with Moses up on the Mount waiting for the Ten Commandments, and we're told he went 40 days without food and water – I don't know how he did that!? 2) We also read about Jesus Christ having a fast for 40 days. But it is said of Him, at the end of His fast, He was *'a hungered.'* Didn't say He was thirsty. And when the angelic helpers came to Him, they brought Him FOOD, it didn't say they brought Him water. 3) Also, they could show you in the Book of Daniel – the very same word which is here translated "you shall afflict your souls, …" the very same Hebrew word applies to Daniel. And Daniel didn't abstain from food and water, but he simply radically

changed his diet to very plain food. He did not eat the fancy food he could have eaten in the king's court. But he had like… a bowl of beans.

And their all called fast's. What's MOST IMPORTANT is that you will HUMBLE yourself before the Lord on the Day of Atonement! Don't become obsessed with Leviticus 16, learn the teaching point: It's the SEVENTH DAY OF THE TENTH MONTH, IT IS A HOLY DAY, AND, A COMMANDED CHURCH SERVICE, AND YOU ARE TO HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE LORD.

James 4:6 – This is the ultimate meaning of the Day of Atonement! HUMBLE yourselves before GOD! And how do you humble yourself before GOD!? **Verse 7** - By submitting to the will of GOD. The Way of GOD. The WORD of GOD. The Plan of GOD. **Verse 9** – "Lament …" It means, at times, take stock of who you are. Look at yourself in the spiritual mirror. **Verse 10**: This is the meaning of the Day of Atonement – "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

WHAT END-TIME EVENT – PROPHETICALLY FUTURE EVENT – DOES THE DAY OF ATONEMENT REPRESENT!?

What I'm about to say to you has never been taught – was never – in the Churches of God, be it *Worldwide*, *United*, *Philadelphia*, or *Intercontinental*, or *International*, or *Global*, or *Living*, this concept which I am about to tell you. Most likely if you have a background and history with the remnants of the *Worldwide Church of God* you have NEVER heard this before. The Day of Atonement is prophetically linked with an event which the Bible calls the Day of the Lord. You were taught as doctrine, and many of you still believe, … but the official teaching of the *Worldwide Church of God* was that there were the SEVEN SEALS, and then the SEVEN TRUMPETS, and then the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES, and THEN JESUS CHRIST would return … *boom*! The RESURRECTION trump … *boom*! Then… we're in the Kingdom of God!

Not an accurate rendition according to the Word of God!

Revelation 15:1 – "…seven angels having the seven last plagues, for IN them the wrath of God is complete." The angry fearsome judgment of God! **Verse 7** – The seven last plagues are directly linked with the idea of the Day of the Lord. And the Day of the Lord, prophetically, is linked to the concept of the Day of Atonement.

Remember – SEVEN SEALS, SEVEN TRUMPETS – THE SEVENTH TRUMP IS THE RESURRECTION TRUMPET!

Revelation 15:2 – Who are these people that have gotten the victory!? Their people, hopefully, like you and me! When the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES BEGIN, THE RESURRECTION OF THE SAINTS HAS ALREADY OCCURRED! The Saints are

protected! Because they're not flesh and blood anymore. Their eternal spirit beings – members of the Family of GOD.

Recall: Matthew 24:40-42 – "'Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41) Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42) Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.'"

The WRATH OF GOD (the Day of the Lord) is prophetically linked with the Day of Atonement. Single most prophesied event in the Bible – bar none. Not even the Return of Jesus Christ is prophesied as much as the Day of the Lord is prophesied. The Fall Holy Days picture, in a prophetic sense, some of the major events, major stages, major progressions of the end-times. The SEVEN SEALS of the Book of Revelation are the symbolic, prophetically, of the early 'troubles' which will befall this world, and in particular, the House of Judah and the House of Israel. And the FIRST SIX of the SEVEN TRUMPETS are a progression of those 'troubles.' And the SEVENTH TRUMP of the seven trump's is indeed, directly related to the concept of the resurrection of the saint's. The blowing of the SEVENTH TRUMP! And following that, in the Book of Revelation – Chapters 15 & 16 – you read about the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES.

Keep in mind, the SIXTH PLAGUE of the seven last plagues is the so called – that great battle at Tel Megiddo, also known as Armageddon.

In which armies of this world, gathering together to blast each other to oblivion, then turn their sights on this returning "alien from outer space." The very throne of GOD, Jesus Christ and God the Father and the resurrected saints! Keep in mind, the resurrection occurs on the SEVENTH TRUMP. The seven last plagues follow that. So, we will already be in "low earth orbit" in the clouds, being with Jesus Christ, in preparation for the time He, Jesus Christ, directly engages human kind. In a fierce judgment.

The word ATONEMENT, if you look it up in some of the Bible helps, in the *Strongest Strong's Concordance* it's labeled #3722 – it has basically the meaning of reconciliation. Or the "balancing of the books."

The establishment of harmony. "Making all things finally equal. Well balanced." In our individual lives – pertaining with our relationship with God - the sacrifice of Jesus Christ,

having been applied to our sins, balanced the books. It established harmony between us and GOD.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - I can't remember this passage ever being read on the Day of Atonement in other church groups of which I have attended. Although Mr. Ted quoted this passage quite often, realized the great POWER of this verse and had great insight into it. "Therefore, if anyone is IN Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; …" When you entered into that baptismal pool, you were saying by that physical act, symbolically, that the life which I once controlled is OVER, the life which I had, including its sins and the promise of eternal death, that those are GONE. That old man, as it were, died in that temporary watery grave. And when you were pulled up out of that pool, totally refreshed, totally made clean in the sight of God, with everything, every evil thought, action, word, deed, that you've ever said or done GONE! Wiped clean! You began to become a new creation. And with the laying on of hands by the minister and the prayer of faith, saying, "Give this new creature, the Spirit of God." **Verse 18** – "Now all things are of God, WHO HAS RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, …" God the Father "balanced the books." The debts were payed. And now the account is in proper balance. He "reconciled us to Himself" by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. **Verse 19** – We have received that gift of forgiveness. We have received that gift of having our sins forgiven. We have received the gift of having been loosed from the pains of death. And the future of eternal death.

Verse 20 – It was this very verse, read by Mr. Ted when he was a young man, passed on from his father, which encouraged and inspired his father to name the new college out in Pasadena, in about 1947, to be called Ambassador College. A school which I was affiliated with, the college I graduated from - after 4 years. And many of my family members and friends didn't much care for what I was doing. They feared it. They questioned it. They harassed me and harangued me and persecuted me for it. And I think even now, many of my family member's still hold me in a questionable light. But as a very young boy Jesus Christ made it clear to me, "I want you to go *there*, and I want you to learn." And then, here recently in my life, He said, "OK, I'm now going to clean up some of the mess and show you a more purer, a more proper version of My truth." And, as of December 2012 Jesus Christ has graciously continued to show me things which I did not learn in the *Worldwide Church of God* or its descendants. Things that I learned by no man, but I learned by the Spirit of God, teaching me from the Word of God.

We are supposed to be representatives of a future government. And some day we will be a part of that government. If God gives us that great gift. And if we stay close to Christ He will, because that's His promise. "…We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." And, that's sort-of the concept of the word ATONEMENT. I've heard people say, "You're not good enough to make it into the Kingdom! And you'll never be good enough!" Well… that's true! YOU will never be good enough to make it into the Kingdom of God.

However, *the* Jesus Christ who lives in YOU and with YOU through His Spirit is good enough! And that Spirit of Christ living within YOU, it is that new creature that **verse 17; 2 Corinthians 5** talks about!

As a whole, *this* world, the past and the coming future, is NOT presently reconciled to God. The books are NOT "balanced." A state of harmony does NOT exist. The Day of the Lord - and you can think Day of Atonement - the day of this reconciliation, this day of the "balancing of the books," begins the process in which God the Father and Jesus Christ becomes RECONCILED with the people of this Earth. And right now they aren't. Now, before the process is complete, the books need to be "balanced." The "score" needs to be settled. It MUST be reconciled. And there are a great many passages in His living Word which speaks of what God thinks. In my lifetime I've had a lot of people, outside of the Church and even so-called within the Church – and to be honest; I've had greater trouble with people so-called within the

Church – but, I've had a lot of people go out of their way to just give me a hard time, to make life tough on me, to try and drive me away, to make me discouraged, to embarrass me. Sometimes I feel like a punching bag. And the process doesn't seem to stop. Here recently I had to go through the ignominies of having people that I thought was of God become like enemies. People who said, "O' I will always be your friend." And then they end up acting more like enemies, than brother's in Christ. Ah, that's a head scratcher. But God says, "Remember, vengeance is mine!" Now I know that these people are going to face a very tough time in the future. And I know it because the Word of God says it.

Romans 12:9 – godly love. **Verse 10** – speaking of individuals who are supposedly been given the gift of God's Spirit. Now, the *Worldwide Church of God*, at one time, said it was UNIFIED. And you went into a congregation of the *Worldwide Church of God* and they spent hours telling themselves how much they loved each other. And they use to exclaim, "O' we are the church of Philadelphia, the church of godly love!" And they spent a lot of time just telling… bloviating about how filled with love they were. Now, there are other denominations in *this* world that do the same thing. There are some Baptist congregations that talk about love, love, love, "♪♫…all you gotta have is love…♪♫" Well, they say it so often, I think it's like saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Now, many of us have said the Pledge of Allegiance. And I've had to realize at times, well, I've stood there in front of the flag and placed my hand over my heart and said the Pledge of Allegiance and said it in a remote way – like a robot – that I didn't even understand the words which I was saying. Even though the *Worldwide Church of God* said that it was a church of 'brotherly love,' within a few years that organization split, fractured, schismed, into hundreds of pieces. And now the very people who one time said to the people on their right, "O' I love you friend! I love you brother! I love you sister!" Now are mortal enemies! And all I can say is, something about that just doesn't smell right. How can you at one time say you love somebody and down-the-road then you treat them with contempt and disrespect!? How

do you do that!? Now, human love is fickle. How many of you can say – and think about this – "I now have with me, in the latter part of my life, friends which I had since my youth!"? How many can honestly say, "I have had this core group of friends, and we've never left one another!"? I'm sure some people can. And, wonderful for you. But for most of us, we change to a new job, we forget the old friends.

Maybe we call them a few times, then with time we forget who they are. And then we go and form a new group of friends. And so in the course of your life you may have several groupings of what one-time were friends. And so it was with the *Worldwide Church of God*. People who said they were friends, brothers and sisters in Christ. Because of all of the politics and the animosities and the jealousies, especially among the so-called church leaders, people forget that one-time these were my friends. And then, they seemingly don't care at all. But the Word of God says in verse 10 of Romans 12, "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, …" I wish *that* happened more.

Verse 16 – "Be of the same mind toward one another." – He DIDN'T say – IF you're part of the ABC church, you do that within yourself, and IF you're part of the XYZ church, you do that within yourself, and if you're in the MNOP church. No, IF you have entered into the baptismal pool and IF Jesus Christ declared you to be a future member of the Family of GOD, then EVERY ONE OF THESE IS YOUR BROTHER AND YOUR SISTER! No matter how your organized administratively. **Verse 18** – "IF it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." – Even Paul seemed to indicate, you might meet some characters down-the-road that are so impossible to get along with, maybe the best way to love them, is to not be around them. So, "'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." God will recompense, will reconcile the books. He will equal the scales of justice.

Hebrews 10:26 – "For IF we sin willfully AFTER we have received the knowledge of the Truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins." – blasphemy against God's Spirit. For if you drive out God's Spirit out of you through your coldness of heart, your jealousies and your bitterness and your animosities, if you're not careful you can quench the Spirit of God. Paul said, "Quench not the Spirit." And if you do quench it off, at that point you have sinned a terrible sin. A sin by which you cannot recover. And for those few – relatively few; compared to the great mass of people who will indeed receive eternal life – **Verse 27** says, "but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries." It can be said a lot of things about God, but one of the traits of God, one of the very immutable facets of His personality, HE IS A GOD OF PATIENCE, but in the end, He is a God of justice.

Verse 28 – "Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses." – I think it ironic – there are people within the environment of the Churches of God, even among the one I have attended, who are enamored with the

law of Moses, they are enamored with the Old Covenant. Like what one man I heard say, "The only things you need to know is the first five books of the Pentateuch!" And I think, what is going on inside his head!? And IF you live under that law of Moses, IF you truly do, you better be really careful because IF 'two or three witnesses' come up against you and make an accusation against you, you might very well find yourself being stoned to death. It was rather an unmerciful law. An unforgiving law. Yet. I know people in the Churches of God – well, they say they're a part of it – which have in their past a whole lot of problems with sin, alcohol, illicit drugs, sexual indiscretions, and yet, some of those people are still attracted or sympathetic for the law of Moses. As for me – give me the New Covenant! As for me – let me live under the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Yes, let me live by the Ten Commandments, but let me know that if I sin, I have a place to go – Jesus Christ, who will forgive me my sin's, not only the sins of my past, but my ongoing situation's. **Verse 29** – When you drive out God's Spirit you're saying, the sacrifice of Christ really didn't mean anything, and I have no respect for it. **Verse 30** – It's God's job to reconcile. To "balance the books." To "settle the score." To equal the great "panels of justice." **Verse 31** – the implication is, 'It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God.' Of a God who is about to disperse judgment. Recompense is the meaning of the word ATONEMENT. God is going to give to us exactly what we deserve. And, if we deserve grace and kindness, He will bestow it upon us. If we deserve – through His graciousness – an opportunity for eternal life He will give that to us. But if we deserve to be punished, or if we deserve to die, He will also recompense that issue. But you can't understand the Day of Atonement or the Day of the Lord without understanding this principle about God.

An image representing our Lord Jesus Christ *as a baby* from my Catholic Challoner-Rheims Version of the Bible.

Now, there are a lot of people in the world today, have been raised up on the idea of a "little Lord Jesus," or a "little baby in a manger," or a young man wandering through the hills of Judea with his long face and long hair, shaggy clothes and sandals. And they cannot imagine that *that* Jesus Christ, which they have in their mind, could be as He said, "a God of war!" He said, "I do judge and make war!" They've never been exposed to that facet of His personality. And when you attempt to communicate this with them, their mind shuts off, "O' that just can't be, the little Lord Jesus just wouldn't do that." And it is true, the little Lord Jesus, the first time He came, came as a lamb to be sacrificed for all of mankind's sin's. But when He returns, He comes back as a fierce warrior, giving

recompense. Making proper payment for the injury, the loss and the damage which has been done to His world and to His Law. Giving back or in kind, in quantity. Returning for something lost or suffered, because of the fault of human beings. Jesus is going to, in the future, reimburse, repay, requite, reciprocate, retaliate, make amends, compensate, redress, reprise, and restitute. And all of that will take place, initially, with the Day of the Lord, which is also equivalent with the Day of Atonement.

Isaiah 59: This is a principle throughout the Bible. You NEED to understand this. If you don't understand this, you don't understand God. If you don't get this, you won't understand the Plan of God. If you don't get this, you won't understand why the world must go through the Day of the Lord. Which is prophetically linked with the Day of Atonement. Therefore you will be confused, and you might very well be bitter. **Verse 1** – "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; …" – It's not that He can't reach out and grab us and pull us up – **Verse 2** – "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you." **Verse 14** – Justice, truth, and equity is very IMPORTANT to God! **Verse 17** – "…He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak." – there are two sides of God's personality. One is mercy, forgiveness, love, offering salvation. And the other says IF you will not do what I want you to do, I will offer you justice. And it will come to you in the form of vengeance and anger, and eventual death. This is the "hot and the cold" as it were, the "ying and the yang" of God's personality. Now, you may say, "Well, I don't want to hear about that vengeful God!" or "That vengeful God, that's not the One I worship!" Well, IF you worship Jesus Christ, that's the One you worship.

Again, we live in a world where THAT isn't made known to people! They just have a "little Lord Jesus away in a manger." ♪♫ O holy night ♪♫ and all of those Christmas songs. But the Truth is so much more complex. Here is the principle in **Verse 18** and so many other places, "According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; …"

Jeremiah 20: You can't understand the Day of the Lord, the Day of Atonement unless you understand these things. The Day of Atonement DOES NOT mean "at-one-ment." **Verse 11** – Now, in my relatively short life, and with my interaction with the Church, and it doesn't matter if you're talking about *Worldwide* – my teeth were cut in *Worldwide* – and *Intercontinental*, all of those fazes of being associated with God's Church, there has been people who has gone out of their way to persecute, to make trouble. And yet, in the end, they will be cut down to nothingness. "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay."

Jeremiah 23: Here the same principle applied to the "pastors of the flock." He calls them "My people." **Verse 2** – God says He will repay them the way they deserve to be repaid. Now, people can say, "To whom is He speaking!?" Is He talking about the physical people of Israel, who have been misled by their false religions!? It's possible. I think that is part

of the implication. But I think it is also referring to the Churches of God – the Body of Christ – and there are in these different organizations pastors who seem more concerned about their own needs, their own sense of power, their own sense of control, than worrying about the spiritual health of people who are a part of their organization. And I do believe every human being who thinks he is a leader in the Body of Christ – you need to read these words very soberly, because if you're not careful you might be on the receiving end.

Verse 8 – At the very end of the end-times, getting close to the beginning of the Millennium, in that interim, one of the first things that God Almighty and Jesus Christ is going to do is to search out the physical people of Israel, the remnant, wherever they might be from the four-corners of the globe and bring them back as a people, as a nation, back to the holy land, where God the Father and Jesus Christ will then reside. And, I think King David will be their leader, and he will lead them in battle. And many of the resurrected saints will be there also, and many of the angelic beings will be there.

And I think this great army of spirit beings, of angelic beings, and physical human beings – all now aligned with God – will exact a terrible toll on the people, especially of the Middle East, of the nations which are consumed with the religious cancer of Islam, especially militant Islam. **Verses 9-10** – "For the land is full of adulterers; …" – Now, I've tried pointing out before that the word "adultery," it might, in part, refer to the physical sin of adultery. Sex outside of marriage. Breaking those bonds of loyalty. But, most of the time, not all of the time, when you see words in the Bible such as fornication, adultery, whoring, those types of words, if you read the whole passage, it is God's pronouncement against people who are engaged in false religion. You see, at one time God married Israel. And when Israel, the people of Israel, leave God and go – in His own terminology – a whoring after other gods and other religions, God looks upon that as the highest form of adultery. Of the betrayal of wedding vows. **Verse 11** – "…Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness,' …" – Now again, this might refer to the physical people of Israel, in part.

But you keep hearing the Words, "My people," and here, "My house." The house of God, the house of Israel, the spiritual house of Israel. I think He's referring to the Body of Christ. Indeed, there are leaders – they say they're leaders, they have titles – they promenade around like they're leaders, they strut like a peacock like they're leaders, and yet, He says, "I have found them to be wicked and they are profaned, the prophet, the religious leaders." **Verse 16** – "…'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, …'" – We, here-and-now, are to be practitioners, fully involved, in the religion of the New Covenant. The Priesthood of Jesus Christ. And yet, there are people out there on the religious highways and byways within the so-called Churches of God which for all intense and purposes are

indeed Old Testament, Old Covenant churches. And when you bring this up to them, they rage, they roar like lions without their food.

Because they "walk," **Verse 17** "according to the dictates [imagination] of [their] own heart, …" – their own ideas. And what ARE some of the things which will happen!? **Verses 19-20** – "In the latter days you will understand it perfectly." – In the latter days, when this age is about over, the people who at one time were Old Covenant keepers, who happen to live through the end-times, at some point, they will finally understand they should have worshiped Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Prince of Israel, and the Priest of the New Covenant. Yet, they clung onto the old ways and the old habits, the old ideas, the old traditions. And in doing that, did absolutely nothing for them. **Verses 21-24; 25** – "'I have heard what the [false] prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'" – that's a very blunt statement! Understand, IF you turn to the Old Covenant mentality, you will NOT have the protection of Jesus Christ! Because the Old Covenant operated without Jesus Christ! Oh there were types and shadows. But the New Covenant operates directly under the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. And in that alignment, you will have access to God. You will have God's forgiveness, have the blessing of Jesus Christ, you will be protected. But IF you go after those old traditions, you are in serious danger! **Verse 30** – God is against the false ministers and religious leaders. **Verse 32** – "'… and cause My people to err by their lies …'" – by their religious impurities. By their religious doctrines. If your minister's or minister is teaching you the principles of the Old Covenant, he's lying to you! He's deceiving you! He is misleading you! And, like God states in verse 32, "'they shall not profit this people at all.'"

Verse 36 – Again, you're going to be judged by what you say, by what you teach, by what you do – and how you react to those words. **Verses 39-40** – Well, the people that go around and lie and say, "O' we will always be your friend," you need to be very careful, because you run the risk of being on the receiving end where God says, "No. In the end, I AM is not your Friend!" Now, this is a part of the Day of the Lord! This is a part of the meaning of the Day of Atonement. Of "settling the score." Of "balancing the books." Of giving to people exactly what they deserve.

Jeremiah 24:10 – Think about the meaning of that phrase, and that secondary Message! About religious people who were dedicated to someone's father or someone's grandfather, but to you, you will be consumed in this day of reckoning. So says the Word of GOD! Now, some may say, "How dare you say such a thing!" Well, IF you get mad at me for saying that, you might just as well get mad at God, because these are God's Words! It's His Message! And, if you reject the New Covenant, you reject JESUS CHRIST! If you reject the Priesthood of Jesus, and claim back that Old Covenant way, you will be destroyed! And you will die. There are, throughout the Bible, different places in the Old Testament where God is very explicit about His utter disgust about people who mislead His people ISRAEL – both physical Israel and even more importantly spiritual Israel.

Ezekiel 13: Remember, IF God says something more than one time, it's worth paying ATTENTION to. But in the Word of God, when you see things repeated over and over and over, you realize that God's truly trying to get you to wake up and to understand that this thing that He's saying is VERY IMPORTANT, and so this principle here is VERY IMPORTANT! **Verses 1-2** – Once again, is this physical Israel or is it indeed spiritual Israel!? The Church!? The Body of Christ!? I think it probably means a little of both. I actually think it means more about spiritual Israel than it does even physical Israel. I think God is disappointed when He sees His physical people misled, taken out of the path, confused, bamboozled, flimflammed. But I actually believe this is more to do with deceiving the spiritual people of Israel – the Church, the Body of Christ. "'…say to those who prophesy out of their own heart,'" – You see anytime you get behind a lectern you represent – you say you represent God – you have a choice to make, you can either get behind the lectern and you can say the Words of God, or, you can just say your own words, share your own ideas. And you claim to be a religious leader, and you start sharing your own personal thoughts, your confusing people. Because they think you are there to talk about what God really wants, but in the end, you're talking about what's important to you. And you're just talking about, as it says here, "'prophesy [or teach] out of their own hearts.'" And so we have that situation down in Tyler, with those "Updates." When I've read those "Updates," I've never read what I could not have read in a paper, or heard on a radio program, or seen on a television program, or read on a computer site. All representing the far far Right-Wing. God says here, "'…and have seen nothing!" 'You're not showing anything new!' You're just regurgitating the stuff you hear. But you almost act like you came up with it. Now, if you think that your opinions are so great, then go out into the commercial world and get your own radio show. Or, write your own editorial columns. And see if anyone will buy them. See if anyone will follow you. But to take a closed audience, a "captured audience," to take people who are simply coming to meet on God's holy day and in an attempt to show respect to God, and for you to take that "captive audience" and just hammer them with YOUR OWN far political thoughts – ON GOD'S SABBATH – there is something terribly wrong about that!

Verse 5 – These prophets, these teachers, who prophesy 'out of their own heart' hasn't made the House of Israel or the Church of God stronger. They've simply confused it. And in the end, they've made it weaker. "…'to stand in battle on the Day of the Lord.'" – Again, we see a reference to the Day of the Lord. **Verse 8** – Now, think about it a moment: What does spouting Right-Wing politics have to do with the Word of God!? What does it have to do with God's Sabbath day!? It is so WRONG! They just think they're just doing God's will. Well, I guess all the people on *Fox News* are doing God's will. Or, I guess Rush Limbaugh is doing God's will then. **Verses 8-9** – "…'they shall not be in the assembly of My people, nor be written in the record of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter into the land of Israel.'" – speaking of the Kingdom of God!

Old Covenant "nailed to the Cross"

Ezekiel 34:1-2 – Now again, is it physical Israel or is it spiritual Israel!? A case, I think, can be made for both. But I think the bigger weight is a Message to spiritual Israel. And secondarily, I think it applies to physical Israel. Remember, this becomes ever-clearer in the Day of the Lord. This is ENDTIME! This is talking about the spiritual health of the spiritual people of God, the Church, the Body of Christ. "'Should not the shepherds feed the flock?'" – And yet, when you go on about far Right-Wing politics YOU ARE NOT FEEDING THE FLOCK!

Verse 4 – Matthew 20:25; this line's up perfectly with prophet Ezekiel here. Gentiles who when they are Gentiles are alienated from God. Not talking about Gentiles who convert to true Christianity. Verses 26-28, Matthew 20 – And yet, within this organization down in Tyler, and many of the organizations which descended from the *Worldwide Church of God*, it's so-called leaders are the most haughty, vain, arrogant, self-possessed, self-opinionated people you could ever meet. And they are a law unto themselves.

Revelation 2:6 – He's talking to a church group that existed way back in the first century, a congregation, in Ephesus. And He says in **Verse 4**, "'Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.'" – That first flush of enthusiasm has become tarnished and corroded and corrupted. And, quite frankly, your light produced by the Spirit of God doesn't shine very brightly anymore. **Verse 5** – "'Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent [change] and do the first works [go back to the way you use to be], or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.'" – when Jesus says, 'I will remove your lampstand,' meaning you simply will cease to be a representative of Jesus Christ. And you say, "Well, will God ever take a church group and just disband it!?" Strike it down!? Do away with it!? Well, I know of one such church group that He did that to. The *Worldwide Church of God*. Yes, *Worldwide* was a very unique outfit, and it flourished for a long time, but eventually it's leaders started to think of themselves as being MORE IMPORTANT than God. And it's leaders were fascinated with power and control. And I think that *Worldwide* had its lampstand yanked and thrown away! I've heard several people over the years say, "Well, Satan destroyed the *Worldwide Church of God*!" No, Satan couldn't have touched the *Worldwide Church of God* IF God didn't allow it! But I think God is up to here with the *Worldwide Church of God*! He was up to here with the hubris, the arrogance, the haughtier, the self-promotion, the self-lining of pockets, the positions and sense of power. **Verse 6** – "'But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.'" – The Nicolaitans – Oh people have pondered what that means. I think it has a very simple meaning, think about the context. The word Nicolaitans comes from two Greek words: the first part *Nicoli* or Nicolas, means "to rule with authority, with power." And the word *laitans* is the same root word or the root of that word is the same word we call laity. Every day, normal mom and pop church people. The very meaning of *that* word is contained in the word.

The deeds of the Nicolaitans are those people who rule with authority, with cruelty, over the laity – the normal church members. And THAT took place within the Church of God – the *Worldwide Church of God*, and it takes place within most of the organizations which proceeded or evolved from it. And it takes place down in Tyler, Texas. **Verse 15** - Again, IF God says something more than one time, it's worth paying ATTENTION to. But in the Word of God, when you see things repeated over and over and over, you realize that God's truly trying to get you to wake up and to understand that this thing that He's saying is VERY IMPORTANT! "'Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.'" – there's no equivocation about that. Jesus says He hates it. The Book of Revelation says He hates it. The prophet Isaiah says He hates it. The prophet Ezekiel says He hates it.

Ezekiel 34:4-11 – Again, over and over in the Word of God, He's going to deal with people exactly the way they deserve to be treated. And that judgment will first begin on the Church of God, upon the people of God – the Body of Christ, the "flock." And there have been some very despicable characters within the leadership of the Churches of God. And, sooner or later that judgment from God will rain down upon them. Again, the *Worldwide Church of God* and the descendants which have flowed from it, have been woefully ignorant of the meaning of the Day of Atonement. They have spent their years talking about, "Well, we will be at-one-ment with God!" As I've said, the fact that you can take the word atonement, that English word, and divide it is just a sheer freak accident of the language. It means basically, reconciliation – the "balancing of the books."

Luke 21:22 – "'For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.'" – meaning all of the prophecies may be fulfilled. And we are on the edge of that time. Are we there right now!? No, I don't think so, because world conditions do not yet comply with the things we read of in the Bible. Jesus was very specific – when you see armies surrounding Jerusalem. And then we're told when you see that great false religious leader stand in the temple of God in Jerusalem, proclaiming that he is God. That's when you know! The 'abomination of desolation' has taken place, and that's really the big explosion that starts everything rolling. But leading up to that we know there will be a number of 'troubles.' Remember Jesus listed a number of things in Matthew 24, and said 'these are the beginnings of sorrows.'

"You're going to receive exactly what you deserve!"

Jeremiah 25: This is a prophecy which goes back thousands of years ago when God announced that Nebuchadnezzar II, the king of Babylon, would inflict punishment upon the people of Judah. **Verse 1** – Now, isn't it interesting, right now, every day in your newspapers, or on the television or the news on your computer, we're seeing terrible things taking place IN the ancient land of Babylon!? Not far away from what we call BAGDAD. That land has just descended into chaos! And the birth of what they call ISIS! The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria! Nothing but bloodshed and horror's beyond the abilities to describe. Well, way back then, God used the king of Babylon (think in terms of IRAQ) as a weapon of punishment against the tribe of Judah. **Verses 2-3** – God is saying, "I kept sending my prophets, I kept speaking to you, and you refused to hear them, you refuse to heed what they were trying to tell you!" **Verses 4-6** – Now, one of the Ten Commandments states, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' And, all of the Ten Commandments have a, sort of, physical nature to them. However, they have a much more powerful spiritual meaning! And so when you come to the word adultery – and we all know what adultery is. And, Paul went on to describe all forms of sexual misconduct could, sort of, fall under that general plank of 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' But he's not just talking about physical adultery – the betrayal of a man or a wife to their mate. It has a much more expansive meaning. In the mind of God, He married ancient ISRAEL. They became His bride. A beautiful picture of this is in Ezekiel 16, and His thoughts about it. However, Israel has NEVER been true to God. They've NEVER been faithful, and one of the sin's which they commit with great regularity – and most people of this land don't even know about it. Now, is murder the worst sin!? No, King David committed murder, and it was WRONG, and he was punished sorely, however, murder is not the worse sin you could do. Is stealing!? Is lying!? Some people would say, "Well, cheating on your mate!"

Well, if that be true, then many of the households in America have a horrible black cloud over it! Because quite frankly, many Americans have not been faithful to their marriage vows. What's the worst mistake you could make!? Is committing spiritual adultery! Separating yourself from God Almighty and Jesus Christ by going after a false religion. Now, King David was in contact with the correct religion. David made a terrible mistake. He allowed his human emotions and lust's and desires to get in his way. Cloud his thinking. Confuse him. But he was always trying to be in contact with God, even though he wasn't doing a very good job for a while. And after he plotted the death of his lovers husband, and succeeded – he was STILL wanting to be close to God! And when he was shown his great error, and he repented – he was STILL there close to God! But if you go

a different way, you become involved in a different religion, if you're not close to God, then God can't deal with you! The telephone cord has been severed. "'Do NOT go after other gods to serve them and worship them, …'" – this is why He was so upset with Judah! And also the people of Israel! Now, people say, "Well, how is our country going after false gods!?" Well, our country and the people of the Western world, put great emphasis on so-called "holidays." Like Christmas. They claim it to be the birthday of Christ. Yet, Jesus Christ was not born at the end of December. They put great emphasis on things like Easter. Which is a pagan name, about a pagan goddess. And all of the signs and symbols of Easter: eggs, reproduction, bunny rabbits - those are signs of an ancient fertility god. God doesn't appreciate people celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ and calling it EASTER! It offends Him! Because the true meaning is PASSOVER! And then the Days of Unleavened Bread. And later on the Feast of Pentecost. And so, people don't go about it correctly. People of this Western world think we are supposed to go to church on the first day of the week.

And yet the Bible says, so plainly and clearly, that we are to worship God, and come together as an assembly, on the seventh day of the week. And, if you look at the Bible, there's not even a remote argument which can change that!

Also there's what's called Halloween in our culture. In which ghosts, goblins, and demons and creatures of the night – evil subjects – are glorified! This is NOT a celebration which goes to the glory of God, this is a celebration which goes to the glory of Satan the devil and his way of life! And yet we as a nation embrace it and go, "Oh, isn't this wonderful!" And if you quiz somebody, "Why are you doing this!? Why are you teaching your child to extort, that's what it is, 'trick-or-treat'!?"

And the Bible plainly says, **Revelation 18:4** – this whole chapter is talking about the punishment which will come upon an institution, which glorifies these false doctrines. "…'Come out of her,' – meaning these false religious ideas, these institutions of false religion. 'My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'" The people who are in charge of these false religions will be punished. If you are a follower of these false religions you, someday, will be punished. And God, He pleads with you *here*, 'Come out of her! Don't be a part of her sins!' Now, I've heard people say, "Well, isn't it nice that this family is going to their Jewish temple, and that family goes to their cathedral or to their church, or their mosque. And, oh, God loves that because their all trying to worship Him!" We don't get to decide how to worship God! God dictates to us – 'This is how you honor Me!' 'This is how you worship Me!' 'This is how you give My name praise!' And He's very specific about it in the Bible. And just having some false religion and make believing you're pleasing God, which most of the people in our Western world does, God says, 'You're worshipping other gods!' He says, 'it will provoke Me to anger!' **Verses 7-8** – "…'Because you have not heard My Words,'" – now where can you hear the Words of God!? You find the Words of God recorded in the Bible. **Verses 9-13, 14** – Again, this

principle, it's said many times in many different ways, but it basically – in the end – everybody will receive exactly what they deserve. God will treat you the way you deserve to be treated. THIS PRINCIPLE IS STATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN THE BIBLE! It is a statement of God's ultimate divine justice. Now, this does not preclude the fact that you CAN go to Jesus Christ, you CAN ask for forgiveness, You CAN be forgiven, you CAN have all of your sins washed away, and you now remove that curse from you. And that's what He wants you to do! Being reconciled to God by having your sin's washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But if you don't, you will be treated according to your deeds and according to the works of your own hands.

Verse 15 – Now, we read back in Revelation 14:19 – "…the great winepress of the wrath of God.'" And **Verse 20**, "And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs." - Five and six feet deep!

Verses 16-27; Jeremiah 25 – the Day of the Lord. And this is a type. The Bible has prophecies which has an earlier fulfillment, and then they have a latter fulfillment. And this prophecy here, is also going to happen again – in the end-time. And, notice all of the nations, especially the Middle East, that are singled out and named, will be the recipient of God's wrath! He's going to pay back according to their deeds. Now, the number one reason for God's anger with people – is because of false religion. IF you are indoctrinated into a false religion, He can't reach you anymore. **Verse 28** – "…Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'You shall certainly drink!'" You shall have this reward whether you want it or not! **Verse 29** – "…'for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth,'" – this coming event, known in the Bible as the Day of the Lord, which is closely prophetically associated with the meaning of the Day of Atonement. This is going to be all out total war, death, and suffering! For the whole world. For people around the world. **Verses 30-33** – And, who's He talking to in **Verse 34**!? He's talking to the religious leaders, and maybe even the civic leaders, people who should have known better, should have guided and led their people. **Verses 35-37** – Yes, God is a God of mercy and love, graciousness, kindness, and we who have received His calling, and His repentance and His baptism, and the receiving of His Spirit, we can attest to the kindness and graciousness. And yet in the end, at some point, everything is reconciled – the "books are balanced." The evil which people perpetrated, the evil which they represent, it will be visited upon their head. THERE WILL BE JUSTICE! And that day of justice, that day of judgment, is the Day of the Lord! And it is prophetically linked with the true meaning of the Day of Atonement. **Verse 38** – He has forgotten His covenant, momentarily, with the people of Israel and with all the earth. Now, does He solve the problem later on!? Yes! He establishes the Kingdom of God. He goes about restructuring the Earth, it's religions, it's government's, all segments of its society. And who will be there to help guide and lead Him!? Well, God the Father and Jesus Christ will be on the Earth, all of the holy angels will be upon the Earth, His resurrected saints will be upon the Earth, as members of His Family, His government.

And all of those together will help guide and lead this new world – this 'World Tomorrow,' which we often called it.

The world will be put right. But in order to get there so much of this world will have to be destroyed. The great majority of *this* world's people must be eliminated. And then, God will start over – just like what He did with Noah. The world was so evil, so intent upon evil, where every thought of every imagination of the heart was only evil continually – that's how evil they were – and God says, 'I've had enough! I'm going to just wipe them out, except for one family, and start over!' And He did! And, human kind, apart from God, simply is always influenced by Satan and his demons. And THAT'S WHERE *this* world has gone! Think about all the suffering's which has happened over the many thousands of years! Now, to this modern-day, the world is a very unstable place. We have IRAN, getting closer to nuclear weapons, and the American government doing nothing to stop it. We have North Korea with nuclear weapons, the American government or the world does nothing to stop it. We have Russia bullying its way throughout Europe, and America and her allies is, basically, doing nothing to stop it. You have ISIS, you have the Middle East – ISIS, and the war with ISIS is now filtering into the country of Lebanon. And it won't stop there! And it's filtering up to the border of Turkey, and it won't stop there! Wherever you look the world is falling apart. It's like it's going to explode into some kind of catechism of warfare! And, the truth be known, that's where we are going! Now, I hope you can see, what's in Jeremiah 25 goes along perfectly with what's in Ezekiel 13, Ezekiel 34, what was in the Book of Revelation. A lot of people in the past might have read chapter 25 and really not understood what it was talking about. Yes, it is an ancient history lesson, but if you go through it, you understand that event thousands of years ago is just a portent of what's going to happen in the future. This is all talking about the Day of the Lord!

Ezekiel 7 – Again, throughout the Bible, there are these statements made by God which said, 'In the end I'm going to deal with you exactly the way that you deserve to be treated, according to your deeds and according to your works!'

"You're going to receive exactly what you deserve!"

Verse 1 – "…thus says the Lord GOD to *the land of Israel*" – to the land of Israel - basically, the people of the modern Western world. The United States, Canada, Western Europe, England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa – the places where those people eventually settled.

Verses 2-3 – In the end you're going to receive exactly what you deserve. **Verses 4-7** – "…the *day of trouble is near*," – another way of saying the Day of the Lord! **Verses 8-9, 14** – 'They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready,' – remember, near the time of the end, the blowing of the seven trumpets. And the SEVENTH TRUMP is the resurrection trump. And right after the resurrection trump, comes the Day of the Lord, in the Book of Revelation it's called the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES! "'But no one goes to the battle; …" – why does no one come to the battle!? Because most of them are dead or dying or diseased or sick or too weak from hunger and thirst. **Verse 15** – This is the WORD OF GOD and this is describing the Day of the Lord!

Ezekiel 16 – Now, I've alluded to this chapter before. This describes God's view of ISRAEL. This describes His thought processes. **Verses 1-13** – Of course, all allegory. But God is basically describing the birth and now the growth into young woman-hood. And He said He entered into a covenant and married them. We're told in chapter 19, that He entered into a wedding with them. **Verses 14-15** – "'But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot …'" – remember, if you walk away from God, He looks upon it as adultery! **Verses 16-20** – "…'Were your acts of harlotry a small matter,'" – Now, people would say, "How have we devoured our young people!?" Well, think about the things we allow them to see on television and on computers. Think about the ways in which they are mistreated and misused. But maybe the ultimate way – you think every year how many human beings there are who NEVER had a chance to draw a breath of air because their mother found it inconvenient to be pregnant and she destroyed that baby, while it was still in her womb. That child didn't belong to her, that child belonged to God! **Verses 21-22** – "…'you did not remember the days of your youth,'" – you forgot that you were this ugly, naked, dirty, soiled, little baby that nobody wanted. And God took you in and helped you to grow up and gave you the finest of everything. You forgotten where you came from!

Verse 23 – Now, there aren't a lot of places in the Bible where you see the word 'Woe!' You see it back in the Book of Revelation, and here we see it, "'Woe, woe to you!'"

Verses 24-25 – Again, this is a very graphic description, but He's referring to, 'You have gone after other gods and other customs and other religions and other doctrines, and you have not followed Me!' 'And I'm the One that gave you life!' 'And I'm the One that saved you!' 'And I'm the One that took you out of that mud and cleaned you up, because I had a special purpose for you, and yet you would never submit to what I wanted you to do!' God has always loved ISRAEL and God always will! But there have been times when the physical people of Israel had greatly frustrated God. However, in the "World Tomorrow,"

in the Kingdom of God, in the Millennium, the resurrected members of the house of Israel will finally serve the world the way God always wanted them to help. **Verses 26-27** – "…'the daughters of the Philistines,'" think *Palestinians*. **Verse 28** – "…'harlot with the Assyrians,'" – think *modern day Germany*. **Verse 29-30** – "…'as the land of the trader, Chaldea;'" – think *Iraq*. **Verse 31** – "…'Yet you were not like a harlot, because you scorned payment.'" - What He's saying is, 'You played the whore and didn't even want the money!' **Verse 32** – In this case, who was to be the husband of Israel!? God Almighty, Jesus Christ! And, in the Kingdom of God, the very first thing that happens AFTER the resurrection is the great wedding ceremony, where God and Jesus Christ, the Bride, the Church, marries Jesus Christ! So you see that analogy continue, in the Old Testament, and you see it continue on into the very beginning of the Millennium. **Verses 33-35** – "'Now then, O harlot, hear the Word of the LORD!'" – Now, back in chapter 17 of Revelation, verse 1 – So, sometimes the very institutions, which claim to be religious, are given this very same title. Not just the country, not just the people, but also the religions. IF you go your own way and choose your own religion and go against the Way of God, He considers you to be in an adulterous relationship. Or a relationship of terrible sexual misconduct. And, WHERE can you avoid that problem, HOW can you avoid being stuck in an improper relationship!? You go to the Bible, it's the only place you can go – the Book! **Verses 36-39** – 'In the end, all these nations that you played footsie with will turn against you – O' House of Israel!' **Verses 40-42** – 'After your punished, very severely, then I will turn back to you and help you!' Think about it, there are two ways to learn: Think as your small child, and your walking in the kitchen and you reach up and start to put your hand on a hot burner on the stove, and your parent goes, "No! Do not put your hand up there, it will hurt you!" Well, that's one way to learn, and if you're smart you'll go, "Well, I don't fully understand, but hey, they told me not to, I'm gonna do what they say!"

But if you don't listen, theirs another way to learn – 'ssssssss.' And you badly damage your hand! Two ways to learn, an easy way and there's the hard way. God has tried to teach our people the easy way over and over. He's said, 'I've sent you prophet's!' And as Jesus said, 'All you've ever done is kill them!' He said, 'You're going to learn, but now you're going to learn the hard way!' **Verses 43, 59** – That marriage bond, which was supposed to have been there, you paid no attention to and had no respect for.

Ezekiel 18:30 – talking directly to the house of Israel. Again, who are the people of the house of Israel!? Well, basically, the people of the modern Western world. The United States, Canada, Western Europe, England, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa – the places where those people eventually settled – the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel. Genesis 35:10 – "'Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but ISRAEL shall be your name.'" Now, Leviticus 23; 'the children of Israel' – ISRAEL means "struggle with God" #3478 – However, many other Bible help books (and I realize that the Strong's Concordance isn't the most accurate, or maybe the most

extensive word study help you can use; my hardback states "struggle with God" – the *Online Strong's* states "He will rule as God") does state that the name Israel has a shocking meaning - "He will rule as God." As an example: *Abrim Publication* states, "Judging from Genesis 32:28, the form ישראל (Israel) appears to be a compilation of two elements. The first one is the noun (אל El), the common abbreviation of Elohim, meaning God. … The second part of our name appears to be related to the verb שרה I (sara I) … H.A.W. Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament believes our verb to mean to contend or have power." That was Israel's destiny that they as a people will rule *as* God! Well, the house of Israel, and a little further along, the spiritual house of Israel, which is the modern-day Church – the New Testament Church, those people where ever they are who have the Spirit of God and who have their name written in the Book of Life – upon the return of Jesus Christ and our resurrection and our transformation from mortal to immortal we will be co-rulers, co-owners, with Jesus Christ! and we indeed helping God the Father and Jesus Christ – will rule as the Family of God! Verses 11-12; Genesis 35.

Genesis 48: - When Joseph had been reunited with his elderly father, Joseph is now the viceroy of Egypt, and he makes arrangement's for all of his family to be brought over to Egypt and where they prosper for many years. And then unfortunately they ended up being enslaved by the Egyptian people.

Verse 13-15 – Remember, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are people who in their human lifetime had opportunities to deal with God – the One we now call Jesus – face to face, directly. They knew exactly who God was! They had met Him, conversed with Him, shared meals with Him! **Verse 16** – So, biblically, you can point to actual Scripture's that strongly show that in the end-time there was to be a nation and a company of nation's which had the name of Israel placed upon them from the eyes of God. Now we live in a world that's very confused and, we don't even know our American history very well, let alone going back into ancient history. Most Americans are totally ignorant of American history, and they don't understand these concepts. We here in America – when you read in the Bible, "O' house of Israel." – God is speaking to the people of America, in Canada, the British Empire or the former members of the British Empire, and their own separate countries, and it says in verse 30 of Ezekiel 18 – "'Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways,' says the Lord GOD." In the end, God, with all of the other attributes which do make up the very character of God – love, mercy, forgiveness, kindness, and all of these wonderful attributes which we rely upon to have a hope of eternal life – but also in the nature of God, a very consistent, sense of justice. And IF you do not repent of your evil sooner or later you will pay for your evil. Also, verse 4; Ezekiel 18: - "'Behold, all souls …'" Now, the word soul doesn't mean some ghostly apparition or something. Doesn't mean some disembodied spirit. The word soul in the Hebrew simply means a living creature. A creature, a human being, a dog, a cat, a cow, a horse, a bird – living creatures are all called souls. Because they breathe. "…'The soul who

sins shall die.'" Ultimately, IF you disobey God AFTER all the time's He has attempted to reach you, if in the end you will NOT give in to God's will and God's Way of life – in the end – IF you remain defiant, you will die. And He says it again in **Verse 20**! The very Word of God, which truly kicks-in-the-head the concept that you have an immortal soul. I mean, MOST of the people who go to the churches, under the umbrella of Christianity, and many pagan religions, believe that you don't die when you die.

Even though you die you don't die – you go somewhere else, become some other thing – you float off to Heaven as most so-called Christians believe. The Bible says nothing about going off to Heaven. It talks about meeting Jesus Christ in the atmosphere, the resurrected saints. The Bible does talk about Heaven coming to the Earth! The very throne of God! The very city of God – New Jerusalem! *"A new heaven and a new earth"* with New Jerusalem being the capital of the Earth.

But It has nothing to do with, "You're going to live forever in either Heaven or in Hell." And the people who teach that, from most of the churches, are totally, defiantly, openly, disagreeing with the Word of God! Which really is a quandary – WHO, O' little man, put you in charge of defining what God has already defined!? You don't have the authority – human beings – to change the will of God or the Word of God! God tells us what He's going to do! And going off to Heaven, or as Billy Graham use to say, "I's goin' to Heaven!" and people just eat that stuff up! And all the silly things you hear around funeral's and the death of a loved one. Filling a bunch of balloons with helium and letting them go so that the balloon "goes up to Heaven." No, it probably goes up to about 5,000 feet, hit's an air temperature (which it has no more lift) and as the gas leaks out, it falls. "The soul that sins it will die!" Now, in the end, there are simply only TWO possibilities, and I'm not talking about any church tradition – you've got to understand, I really do not care about church traditions; and I'm not being mean when I say this, I don't care what Baptist's believe, or Lutherans, or Methodists, or Mormons, or Catholics, I don't care what Muslims believe or Buddhists believe, I don't care about any of them, and I may study them to be educated, but they have no meaning for me. And quite frankly, I have very little to do with even the so-called traditions from the Churches of which I have attended for most of my life. I don't care about tradition. I don't care when somebody says, "Well, such-and-such said the following." Alright, but that doesn't make it true. I know Catholics, when the pope stands up and speaks, they're taught, that he is speaking for God. And they have the right to believe that, but I'm telling you from my perspective, I don't look upon the words as coming from God. Or when the Mormon president stands up and makes some proclamation, "Alright, you people who want to be in that religion, I guess it means something to you, but means nothing to me." Or when the Baptists get together and have some type of convention.

Here recently they were all in an uproar over gay "marriage," and what they were going to do with it. As many churches have had over the last few years. I don't care what their

traditions says. And, just to be honest, a very important person, in the establishment of the tradition of which I have attended, was named Herbert Armstrong. I respected the man – he has long since been put into the grave.

I appreciated the man, but I realize as I read the Bible, he didn't understand everything. He, sort of, got a lot of things, upside down and topsy turvy. His son, I thought was a marvelous teacher, and I respected him and appreciate him deeply. And I'm sorry that he's no longer with us, but, when it comes to Garner Ted Armstrong says *this* and the Bible says *that*, there's no problem for me to say, "Mr. Ted, I love ya, but, I've got to go with the Bible!" I've got to do what the Bible says. And I realize that a lot of mistakes have been made. I believe what's really in the Bible. I'm not a follower of John Wesley. I'm not a follower of the teachings of John Calvin. Or Martin Luther. Their theology means nothing to me. I don't care what the pope says, or the Vatican says.

God says at the end of **verse 30 of Ezekiel 18** – "'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, …'" Change your ways, change the way you think, change the way you act, change the way you speak, change the way you interact with other people, change the way you interact with God. Just because you go to a church doesn't mean your pleasing God. The only way you're going to please God is if you're doing, believing, teaching, the things which He says. And that's very difficult to get people to understand. If you truly want to honor God and to respect God and to love God, then it's incumbent upon you to know what He actually teaches. And what He believes. And what He wants you to believe.

John 4 – Now, these are the Words of Jesus Christ! These are not the words of anyone else! The Words of the Master, of the Savior, of your soon coming King, the Son of God, the Messiah. Now, if you can't believe these Words, I don't know what you can believe. **Verse 23** – "'But the hour is coming, and now is [to us; we're hearing these Words], when the true [implying that there can be false worshipers!] worshipers will worship the Father in spirit [through God's Spirit residing within them, because of the gift that God gives you after repentance and baptism and the laying on of hands] and in truth [not some make believe fairy-tale; now where does truth come from!? We're told in John 17:17, "'Your Word is truth.'" The Word of God is the source of truth!]; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.'" To worship Him in truth, not in lies. Not in human traditions. And you who are associated with the *Worldwide Church of God*, or once were, and now you're attending parts of once was the *Worldwide Church of God* as it fractured, splintered and split, worship God in truth! And if some of the doctrines you were told to be true, if you can show them - from your Bible - that they aren't correct, then be willing to change! That's called repentance.

Verse 31; Ezekiel 18 – "'Cast away from you all the transgressions, …'" – all of your mistakes. Be it mistakes in your own personal life, or whether it's mistakes in your

religious life – like false doctrine, incorrect doctrine. "…'and get yourselves *a new heart and a new spirit*.'"

That's actually referring to the New Covenant! The New Covenant, which quite frankly… there's a church headquartered down in Tyler, Texas, that doesn't seem to be interested in knowing about the New Covenant.

And many of their member's want to hang onto the Old Covenant mentality. And, make no mistake about it, the *Worldwide Church of God*, was an Old Covenant institution.

But the New Covenant emphasizes Jesus Christ and the promise of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ being the Head of that Church, the ministry, the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ. And it talks about having the Ten Commandments written on your heart and on your mind. And having the Spirit of God within you. And looking forward to the promises of God, the promise of forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life. None of those things could be found in the Old Covenant And God calls out – one of the most plaintive and mournful statements in the Bible – "'For why should you die, O house of Israel?'" 'Why do you continue to go down these false paths!? Why don't you just come to Me in truth and in Spirit!?' **Verse 32** – Turn away from the evil, turn away from the false doctrines, turn away from the misconceptions – and live! Live now a physical life and also live eternally in the Kingdom of God.

Ezekiel 22:18-20 – a reference to the Day of the Lord! **Verse 21** – He is speaking of the people, not the earth. The *Worldwide Church of God* came up with a lou lou of a doctrine. The *Worldwide Church of God*, and I believe all of its descendants - although I haven't researched every one of them - they taught - AS DOCTRINE – that after the thousand-year reign of Christ, and after what they call the one-hundred-year "White Throne Judgment," which we don't know how long it's going to be because… they got that one wrong, too. But at the end of the Millennium, and the end of the "White Throne Judgment," they taught and still do teach, that God was going to melt down the Earth like "liquid glass." And expunge any trace of human life. Now folks that's quite a story. But it's just a story. It has no bases in fact. One more doctrine they simply got WRONG! But you see the *Worldwide Church of God* and its descendants… and I'm going to make up a phrase here… the vanity of ownership. I'm sure you've seen some cars that look like they shouldn't be on the road anymore!? They may have fenders all bent up, or their doors crashed in, and maybe there's a big crack in the windshield, there's smoke coming out of the exhaust. And yet, if you go up to that owner, and say, "Buddy, you need to get rid of that car!" IF he's in love with that car – and many people are in love with their car – he might very well take that as an insult and get up in your face. "Don't you tell me what you think about my car, I love my car!" It's the vanity of ownership. Because it's MY car, I'm going to love it! Well, people do that with some of their thoughts. They come up with an idea, "Hey, let's start teaching this!" Even though it doesn't come from the Bible, it's just

some tradition that's been recycled once again. And the *Worldwide Church of God* was great at recycling the doctrines of other churches.

But they wouldn't say, "O' we got this from the Baptists, or we got that from the Lutherans, or we got this from there…" No, they sort of, made you believe they thought it up all on their own. And one of these things that they came up is, "the earth is going to be melted down!" Once they declared this to be their doctrine, they were too vain to stand up and admit, "We got it wrong!" **Verses 22-24, 25** – "'The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst …'" – what a statement! There is a conspiracy of her prophets! Again, who's He talking about!? Verse 18, "…'the house of Israel.'" So in part He's talking about the physical people of Israel – the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But He's also talking about the spiritual house of Israel – the Church, the Body of Christ. A conspiracy of her Church leaders. And I will say, if you think about the conspiracy there is, to teach people that they ought to go to church on Sunday, they ought to worship Jesus Christ with a pagan "holiday" name – Easter/Ishtar – they've got to go to church on the Mass-of-Christ to celebrate His birth, and all the other folderol that falls around our calendars. That's quite a conspiracy! But even within the Churches of God, the so-called Body of Christ, there are groups of ministers, who do indeed become deeply involved in their own attack conspiracies. **Verse 26** – "…'they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.'" – pretty powerful statement! And again, He might be talking about the physical people of God – the people of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa – but I think here He's talking more than just that. But He also at times has been talking about the so-called Churches of God. The institutions which claim to represent God, but in the end, they don't. **Verse 27** – "'Her princes …'" think about the governmental officials. There's an awful lot of corruption in government. Weather it's national government, or state government, or county government, or city government. **Verse 28** – "'Her prophets plastered them with untampered mortar, …'" – meaning it's not going to last long. **Verses 29-31** – "…and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads.' says the Lord GOD." – 'I will give to them exactly what they deserve!'

Again, this principle is one of the most repeatedly mentioned principles in all the Bible concerning the very nature of God! It is the Day of the Lord when God punishes sinful mankind.

Ezekiel 23:17 – Remember in verse 12 it mentions the Assyrians, it mentions in verse 8 Egypt, verse 17 the Babylonians. These are different people who conquered different parts of the ancient nation of Israel. They were used by God as punishment upon His people who had failed to follow Him. It has an ancient meaning, it has a yet prophetic meaning in the future. Because ONCE AGAIN we will be plagued by the Assyrians (modern-day Germans). The Babylonians (modern-day Iraqis). By the Egyptians. **Verse 18** - Now again, in the Bible, words such as adultery, fornication, and whoredom – and if you read

the context, most of the time, it's not talking about improper sexual relations, it's referring to getting into league with strange religions. Strange philosophies. Now, what's the religion of Iraq right now!? It's Muslim, they're Islam. (According to the 2018 CIA Factbook, Iraq is 95% Muslim – 64-69% Shia and 29-34% Sunni). Just think about it: What has happened to America the last decade. The last few years. Now, it's difficult for my mind to comprehend how it seems as though in the minds of certain leaders of our national preeminence, they seem to prefer the religion of the Muslims more than they do the religion of Christianity. And the people on the far Left will go out of their way to defend Islam and Muslims. And yet these very same people, if the Muslims ever did get control of the leadership, those very same people would be killed, probably beheaded. And we have American people who aren't smart enough to figure that out! **Verse 29** – "'They will deal hatefully with you,'" – they, these foreign religions. These foreign people. Notice verse 25 – that's what these foreign people and these foreign ideas will eventually do to the people of Israel. Both Judah and to the house of Israel.

Verse 30 – And that is happening RIGHT NOW within America! A nation based upon Judeo-Christian ethics and philosophy – the Bible – our nation is being undercut by foreign religions that have not God as their God. And, it's one more reason why we in this country are going to have a really hard fall. **Verse 35** – "…'Because you have forgotten Me …'" – think about the people on the far Left who have wanted to remove the words "In God We Trust" from our coins and our paper money. Think about the people on the Left who petitioned the courts to have the words "under God" removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. Think about all of the things which so-called liberal fair-minded people have tried to do to people who are… want to be followers of Jesus Christ! **Verse 37** – "…'and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them.'" – again, just think about what we do in the name of liberal politics – in the name of "progressive thought." Think about the millions of Americans who were killed before they ever took their first breath! Our son's and our daughter's. It is shameful what we do in this country! **Verses 38-39** – a curious thing – of all the institutions within America, and I guess around the world, which has spoken out against abortion very forcefully, you have to give credit to the Catholic Church. For a long time they have been forceful antagonists against abortions. And yet look at some of our leaders within America – I think about one who was our vice president – who claims to be a Roman Catholic – and about every Easter time you saw him walking around with ashes on his forehead. I think about the lady who use to be the house majority leader from the State of California. I think about many of these people who have advocated for abortion "rights" forcefully, aggressively. And yet, they claim to be Catholic. Now how is that!? We have no respect for life. We have no respect for God.

Now, we're going over all these prophecies. It's talking about God's future punishment upon this country and other countries. That punishment will come in the Day of the Lord! Again, the Day of the Lord is the single most prophesied event in the Bible! What is Isaiah

talking about much of the time!? He's talking about the events which will come about during the Day of the Lord. What is Jeremiah talking about!? What is the Lamentation about!? When Jeremiah writes the Book of Lamentations, what's he lamenting!? What's he so upset about!? He's upset about the destruction which comes upon his people on what we now call the Day of the Lord! What is Ezekiel talking about over and over!? The Day of the Lord. About 9 of the 12 "minor" prophets are Books which discuss the Day of the Lord. So you have Isaiah, Jeremiah, the Book of Lamentations, Ezekiel, the "minor" prophets – they're all talking about the Day of the Lord! Much of the Book of Revelation is talking about the Day of the Lord! It is by far the single most prophesied event in the Bible! And the churches and the people of the tradition of which I come have not understood it, because they have not been taught it. And it wasn't taught because the leaders didn't understand it.

Ezekiel 24:13 – You have to go back in the chapter to verse 1 – "Again, in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, … 'the king of Babylon started his siege against Jerusalem this very day. And utter a parable to the rebellious house, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD …'" – Again, this happened *historically*, it was an initial fulfillment of this prophecy. And like so many prophecies they have an earlier fulfillment and they have a latter-day fulfillment. And so what's described here as history, is also (if you understand it) prophecy. **Verse 14** – Again, this principle over and over in the Bible. 'You're going to get in the end exactly what you deserve.' It is the pronouncement of God's sense of justice and judgment. And He's talking about the Day of the Lord!

Ezekiel 30:1-3 – What are they talking about!? They're talking about THE DAY OF THE LORD! It is prophetically linked to the meaning of the Day of Atonement. "'It will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles.'" – because so many of the Gentile nations rise up against Israel. And greatly wound it, damage it, destroy many of the people, take many people into captivity. A terrible day! And, it's in the future, and we're simply not that far away from it.

Revelation 1:10 – "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day." – the Day of the Lord! Paul is having a vision. Now, it's humorist that there are so many Protestant's in their attempt to give biblical proof to the concept of Sunday worship – this is one of their proof text's. They go, "See, see, Paul was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, Sunday!" Well, the Day of the Lord, the Lord's Day, it means the same thing! And most of this Book leads up to the events of the Day of the Lord! And, the sad part is, most churches have not a clue about the true meaning of the Day of the Lord. And, that goes back to the *Worldwide Church of God* and its descendants which have now fractured into dozens and scores and even hundreds of different organizations and groups. And this has never been known by the descendants of the *Worldwide Church of God*.

Watchman for the House of Israel

Ezekiel 1: - When God Almighty and Jesus Christ – anything that They put into the Bible is important – however, when They repeat the Message, you REALLY know it's important! It's a very strategic, major emphasis, that They want you to catch. They don't want you to accidentally miss it! "…I was among the captives by the River *Chebar*, …" – another name for the Euphrates River in Chaldea – Southeast Iraq. Now, low-and-behold, after all these years, we're still talking about Iraq and Persia (Iran), still talking about the people of the Middle East. Our headlines are still filled with the same places! And, think of Chaldea basically being BABYLON. And, remember the Jewish people were taken captive, hauled off in mass over to that area, and they stayed there a substantial amount of time – and many of them, eventually, got to come home. Many of them stayed in Babylon. And this is why the Apostle Peter talked about himself being in Babylon. Because his assignment, after the death of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, was to go to Babylon to teach the Jewish people who had stayed there and their descendants. This is a powerful part of Jewish history and it's a powerful event in the Bible, and yet, you have the formation of the first temple following this. And then, eventually, the building of the second temple. And now, we're waiting for the building of the third temple – or, something that gives a "house," a "home," a "temple," a "tabernacle," a "tent," something for the events of the end-time era.

"…the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God." – So *here* Ezekiel is being given information, he's being shown thing's by God through the Spirit of God. **Verses 2-3** – Ezekiel was being used as a servant of Jesus Christ and God Almighty. Then there's quite a scene which is described *here*!

Now, this chapter has fascinated mankind for centuries, probably millennia, because of the imagery! Ezekiel, much like John – John was here in about 90-95 AD, he was on the Isle of Patmos and he saw in vision things. And he didn't know exactly what they were. But he did his best and he describes, I think, what you and I could presume (hopefully correctly) of what would be military helicopters. But John didn't know… he didn't say, 'O', look I saw military helicopters!' He did the best he could to describe them and different weapons of war. And, so here Ezekiel, he's seeing thing's also! And it's really, sort of, out of this world! Because it comes from the throne of God! And he doesn't quite know what to call it, and he just attempts to describe it from what he knew about life and his world around him. **Verse 4** – this has given birth to… and I don't really suggest you turn on your TV and watch channels that talk about aliens from outer space. I really think that does a person a disservice, it gets your mind off of the return of Jesus Christ and gets it on highly materialistic things, which… if you wanna know, do I think there are such things as UFOs!? No. Do I think there are lights, sounds, and weird things that happen in the

sky!? Yes. Because I've seen a few. But do I think these are "little green men from Mars"!? No I don't. Or any other planet. I'm actually one which believes – and I will believe this until God Almighty or His official representative tells me differently – that the EARTH is the one place in this great big wide universe where God has created life and has created conditions in which life can exist. And often you hear TV shows refer to the events in the first chapter of Ezekiel. And they want to say that Ezekiel saw a spacecraft from outer space. And, in one sense, sort of, he did. Ezekiel describes a "spacecraft" inhabited by "alien" beings which came from deep outer space – yes – it did. But it was from the throne of God! And this is from God!

"When I looked, and behold, a whirlwind …" So, he was beholding quite a scene! "A whirlwind of fire!" Remember, there was a time when Moses was attempting to escape the armies of the pharaoh of Egypt, and they got to the water's edge, and that scene where the Red Sea is parted, the children of Israel go through dry shod, on either side of them giant walls of water!? Above them a mist – almost a type of baptism. And holding off the Egyptian army, was a giant whirlwind. You almost get that same type of scene. **Verses 5-9** – "Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. …" – Now isn't it interesting in the Book of Revelation we read about living creatures surrounding the throne of God!? I have to presume that this is the same thing that we're reading here in Ezekiel about the same creatures that we read about in the Book of Revelation. I must confess, I don't exactly understand the image that Ezekiel is seeing, but it's sort of like, which ever direction they went, one of these four faces were facing forward. Verse 10 – "As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion …" we read the same thing in the Book of Revelation. At, or near, the throne of God is a being that also has the face of a cat. Now, again, I don't quite know if they've got one head with four different faces. This verse, sort of, implies maybe they do!? Or, I don't know if they can change their faces!?

One time appear as a man, another time an ox, another time a lion, or as an eagle. **Verses 11-12** – So, they are, sort of, a unit. They don't go off on their own, they're a unit. The Book of Revelation calls them, unfortunately, the "four beast's." That's a very unfortunate translation, should be "living creature." Just like it says here in Ezekiel. **Verse 13** – this was quite a show! If you were to come in contact with this group of living creatures, these angelic beings, it would be startling! It would really take you off your feet! **Verse 14** – Again, I don't know exactly what that means, but I guess if they want to they can move very quickly!? **Verse 15** – here we're talking about wheels, and you'll hear many of these people who are fascinated by UFOs, they talk about a wheel within a wheel. And I think

they get that terminology from reading Ezekiel chapter one. They say that Ezekiel saw a UFO. Like from outer space, like "little green men from Mars." Now, these are living creatures, and they are from outer space, but they're from the throne of God, and these are angelic beings. **Verse 16** – "…The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel." - So, it's sort of, when they're all together, looks like some kind of machine!? **Verse 17** – they move as a "block"!? **Verse 18** – Again, I'm not perfectly sure just what this imagery is supposed to be. This is a very tall structure and dreadful – scary – for Ezekiel to see this! "…and their rims were full of eyes, …" – Now are these eyes as in eyeballs or are these lights!? Again, I don't know for sure. Someday, those of us that are allowed the opportunity to be part of the Kingdom of God, I'm sure we'll get to see this – this thing, this structure, this embodiment of four living creatures. **Verse 19** – they're all one unit. **Verses 20-21** – Again, the best of which I can make of this, as I've said before, all of this structure, this event, they move as a unit. They move together. **Verses 22-24** – "When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, …" – think of the noise of Niagara Falls. When you see as "the voice of the Almighty" I think that's giving you a clue that from this device, this amalgamation, at times you can actually hear, maybe, the voice of God. **Verses 25-26** – "…the likeness of a throne, …" a little bit more description. Now, there's a throne in the middle of all of this! Who would be sitting up on a throne!? Well, we see and read about God the Father and Jesus Christ being seated upon thrones. "…in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it." – now, what does God look like!? We know what God looks like, because He said, 'I made man in the image of God.' God looks much like we do! He has a head, shoulders, He has arms, torso, He has legs, He has feet, and hands. And we can read many times where a description of God is given. And so this being that has the appearance of a man, is actually, most likely, most probably – I must presume – is indeed a member of the Family of God. **Verses 27-28** – "…This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD." – It was indeed a member of the Family of God. Most likely the individual to whom we now ascribe the name Jesus Christ. "So when I saw it, I fell on my face …"

Revelation 1:12 – "…seven golden lampstands, …" these are also angelic beings. **Verse 13-15** – "…His voice as the sound of many waters; …" **Verses 16-17** – "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. …" – **Verse 18** – "'I am He who lives, and was dead, …'" – and yes, there was a period of three days and three nights when Jesus Christ – a member of the Family of God, the very Creator of Earth and the universe and mankind and all that there is – lay in a tomb dead. "…'And I have the keys of Hades [the grave] and of Death.'" – meaning, He is the One that can lock or unlock the door that Death and the grave can potentially have upon a human being.

I think we're hearing two different people describe their interpretations of what they've seen, and we see there is a lot of overlap, a lot of similarity.

Ezekiel 2: - Verse 1-2 - Now when it says, "the Spirit entered me," does that mean the Spirit of God, or he just felt a power lifting him up and making him stand!? Probably just a little bit of both I would presume. **Verse 3** – "…'Son of man, I am sending you …'" – now this is critical! Critical thing for you to understand! **Verse 4** – now again, Ezekiel was not to say, "I'm telling you!" He is to go before these people and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD!' 'I'm relaying to you the Words of God right now!' **Verse 5** – "…'yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.'" - Ezekiel 33:32 – 'You're gonna hear My Message, but whether you believe it, whether you actually listen to it and take it to heart, it depends upon you!' God will do nothing that He does not first tell the people about through His prophet. God indeed has made a promise to mankind. 'I'm going to tell you ahead of time,' or 'I'm going to tell some of you, and you probably won't listen, but I gave you fair warning!' "…'whether they hear or whether they refuse, …'" – He repeats that three more times! **Verses 6-7** – "…'whether they hear or whether they refuse, …'" – **Chapter 3:11** - "…'whether they hear or whether they refuse, …'" –

Chapter 3:27 – "…'He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; …'" And something similar in **Revelation 22:11** - this is near the time of the return of Jesus Christ, this is an end-time statement – "'He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy [evil], let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.'" Again **Verse 6; Ezekiel 2** – "'And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them,'" – Ezekiel's being told, 'I send you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation.' "…'though briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions;' …" – meaning, 'Your life may not be all that perfect.' **Verses 7-10**.

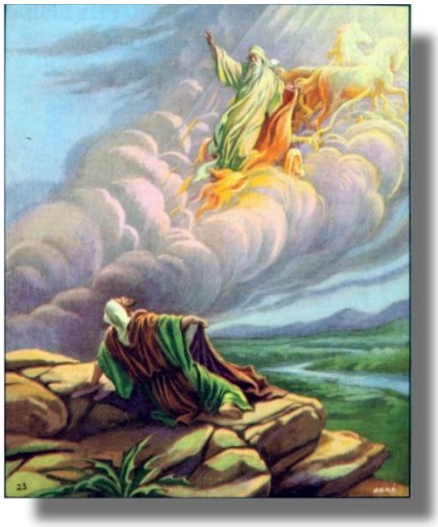
Ezekiel 3:1 - Remember, back in old times, book's, weren't created the way we create books now. They were on a scroll. And they stored them by rolling them up. And so this giant scroll was placed before him, and Ezekiel was told, 'eat this!' Eat this scroll! And He said written in there 'were lamentations and mourning and woe.' Written in there were events, and facts, about the end-time, about the Day of the Lord. **Verse 2** – "…and He caused me to eat that scroll." **Verse 3** – "…and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness." **Verse 4** – again, this was what he had eaten in the book. The information that was in that scroll, he's now to go to the house of Israel and speak the words which God had given to him. **Verse 5-6** – Much like when Jonah was sent to Nineveh. And *they* actually heard Jonah, and repented! **Verses 7-11** – "'But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; …'" God speaking to Ezekiel – a type of the end-time work. "…'whether they hear, or whether they refuse.'" – we hear that phrase quite often.

– notation; **1 Samuel 8:7**; **1 John 4:5-6**; **Luke 16:19-31**.

You know, anywhere you go in this country people have access to a Bible. Some people have two or three Bible's in their house or neighbor's house, or where they work. You go

to motel's here in America and the *Gideon Society* always has a Bible somewhere in there. "…'whether they hear, or whether they refuse.'" **Verse 12-15** – Now, it's pretty evident to me… it's obvious that Ezekiel is taken aboard this structure made of angelic beings – wheels and the voice of God and the throne of God – and he is transported. This is, for the lack of a better term, like a celestial, divine, "taxi-service." He is being transported by this mechanism. And, we read other places where Ezekiel is transported. Now I really want you to get this, because this is part of the story which has never been told and never understood that we are about to get to. I think it is extremely exciting because it's new and unheard of before.

Ezekiel 8:3 – Once again, Ezekiel is transported, by this heavenly "taxi-service." For the lack of a better term. **Verse 14, 16** – Again, he's transported. Now, did this just take place in his mind, or is he literally being taken!? A couple of times he says, 'lifted me up and took me away.' He is being transported, it's not just a vision thing. He is physically going to place "A" to place "B." **Ezekiel 11:1** – So, Ezekiel was transported by this heavenly "taxi-service." This heavenly "taxi-service" is, at times, transporting God, and at times it's transporting Ezekiel. Now, you say, "Well, has that ever happened before!?" Well, turn to 2 Kings chapter 2. This is prophecy, or rather, it's linked to prophecy.



Now, this is another story that is fairly well known. It's talking about Elijah and Elisha, and Elijah, he's having trouble's. His nerves are shot, he just can't keep doing what God was asking him to do. **Verse 1** – "…the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven …" – into the atmosphere. The word heaven in the Bible, the majority of the time, means the atmosphere, where bird's fly and clouds form, lightning and rain, wind. A few times the word heaven refers to outer space. And just a few, a very few times, it refers to the residency of God – the third heaven. "…by a whirlwind,'" recall how in Ezekiel this thing was described like a whirlwind, a giant structure spinning around!? Verse 2 – Elijah is the Sr. prophet, and Elisha is the "prophet-in-waiting." So, Elisha shows a lot of loyalty to his elder. **Verse 3** - "Now *the sons of the prophets* …" – when you hear that term, 'sons of the prophets,' there appeared to be an organization, almost like a college, of young men who were studying the Word of God and were, sort-of, "prophets-in-training." And you hear this phrase several times. "…said to him [Elisha], 'Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?'" – Elijah is going to be removed. **Verse 4** – Again, Elisha shows a lot of character in that he – well he doesn't listen to instruction's very well, because of his great loyalty to his teacher, his mentor. **Verse 5** – "…'Yes, I know; keep silent!'" – 'Quit telling me that!' **Verses 6-8** – "Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water;

and it was divided this way and that, so the two of them crossed over on dry ground." – very similar, but on a much smaller scale, as to what happened to Moses. God parted the waters, so that they could walk over without getting wet. **Verse 9** – "…'Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.'" – this is a very profound request! He could have asked for gold, power, or some other material thing, but Elisha, he wanted the amount of Spirit that Elijah had and then 100% more! 'Give me a double portion.' 'Allow the amount of Spirit just to be overflowing within me!' **Verses 10-14** – So, some people like to teach that Elijah went off to Heaven. "Elijah is goin' to Heaven!" or "He went to Heaven!" But is that so!? – notation; **2 Chronicles 21:12-15**, this happens AFTER this event in **2 Kings 2**. Elijah sends a letter to someone. Elijah didn't go off to Heaven, he simply got removed to a place of peace and quiet where he could live out his natural life before he had a total nervous breakdown, because he was just becoming overwhelmed by all the things that were happening.

I have a feeling that the heavenly "taxi-service" – again, I'm using that phrase so we can, sort-of, understand – which we see here in the Book of 2 Kings with Elijah is the same thing that Ezekiel saw, the same device that transported him from place "A" to "B" to "C."

Recall **Ezekiel 2:8** – "'But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.'" – Well, that's very similar to what we read in the Book of Revelation.

Continuing **Ezekiel 3:16-17** – "…'I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; …'" – Now, Mr. Ted Armstrong, which had a vital role in the *Worldwide Church of God* and also the subsequent churches which came from that, he often claimed this was his moniker. He often said, "I am the watchman unto the house of Israel." And he felt as though this verse and other verses in **Chapter 33** were speaking to him – personally. I don't know, maybe they were, maybe they weren't, only God knows for sure. But my take on this – is that this is an end-time work. The Day of the Lord is an end-time event! It's what happens right before the return of Jesus Christ! Mr. Ted has been in his grave now for over a decade. And like some misguided individuals who claim, "God is going to resurrect Herbert Armstrong and Ted Armstrong to be the two witnesses!" – and I actually know of people who have said such Biblical misunderstanding's, just not understanding the Word of God or the Plan of God. And I will say this – if God the Father and Jesus Christ so decided that They were going to resurrect Herbert Armstrong and Ted Armstrong, and use them in the end-time, nothing stopping Them, because They are GOD, They can do what They want, and They have the power to do it. Do I think They're going to do it!? No. I think it's just a hideous misrepresentation and misunderstanding of what the Word of God is saying. But I do believe there'll be an end-time work! And I do believe the end-time work will be composed of fewer individuals than bigger. The *Worldwide Church of God* always taught, "Well, we've got to grow and grow, get bigger and have more money and more publications so that we can blanket the earth with this

warning!" Well, the *Worldwide Church of God* doesn't even exist anymore and hasn't for a long long time! It's all fallen apart! And I think one of the reasons God allowed the *Worldwide Church of God* to disintegrate and blow away, because He was troubled by a lot of the things they did. And there were two things which they did which were particular and heinous in the eyes of God. They became worshipful of the name Armstrong, to the point where Herbert Armstrong and in some quarters, Ted Armstrong, were looked upon with the same admiration as a true practicing Catholic would look upon the pope, or as a true dedicated Mormon would look upon the president of their church. They actually believed, and these other organizations believe, that their leader when he speaks he speaks directly for God, he is in the place of God. Well that is a terrible mistake. It was back then, it still remains a mistake.

And the other thing that the *Worldwide Church of God* did that I think was abysmal in the eyes of God - Jesus talks about in **Revelation 2**, "…'the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.'" And that word literally means *Nicoli*, to rule with complete power as a dictatorial power. *Laitans* as in the name laity. The word literally means: to rule over the laity of the Church as though the leaders are dictators. Jesus Christ said, 'You're to be the servant, not the master.' Nothing has changed since Jesus spoke those Words! But in the minds of these human beings who get a title, they just become drunk on power and their own sense of self-importance.

Now, the 'watchman' has an end-time job. And we're not to the end – yet. Those two individuals are no longer alive, they are in their graves. But somebody is going to be the 'watchman' unto the house of Israel! Somebody is going to carry an end-time Message to these people! And ultimately, the two witnesses, will carry it to the captives of the house of Israel, and to the house of Judah. But it says here, "…'I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a Word from My mouth, …'" – see the Word hear. He says to Ezekiel, 'hear what I am saying!' 'Don't go out and make up your own church, don't go out and make up your own doctrine!'

'Don't follow a bunch of human traditions and think they're divine.' 'Hear what I'm saying!' And the only place you can get that done is through the Bible!

Verse 18 – 'Because you knew the Truth of God, because you knew the Word of God, Because you knew the Plan of God and you did not teach it, and therefore you did not help these people, I'm going to require their blood and their death on you – O' watchman, who did not do his job!' **Verse 19** – the word "soul" there should be properly be rendered "life." **Verse 20** – So, let's say there are some people who are Church members, members of the Body of Christ, maybe not particularly aligned with us, maybe very suspicious of what we're doing here, and Jesus says here through Ezekiel, 'When a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity,' He says, 'if you have not warned him, his blood I will require at your hand!' **Verse 21** – "'Nevertheless if you warn the righteous

man …'" – another Church member, another member of the Body of Christ, maybe that Church member doesn't go by the name Church of Jesus Christ, maybe they go by some form of the name Church of God!? And there are many such organizations and many such people. People who are trying to do the will of God.

And I would dare to predict that when the final tally is made, you're going to find that those righteous people in the other Churches of God, the Body of Christ, will more likely come from the laity – the Church members. As opposed to the Church leaders. Because quite frankly, many of the Church leaders of these other churches, at one point in my life or another, I have been around some of them. And I have seen some of their work in the recent years, and quite frankly, I'm not very impressed with it. It seems to me that their work is a work of their ego, of promulgating their own image. As opposed to teaching about Jesus Christ. "…'that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, …'" – and it might just be the process of teaching them the Words of God doctrinally more pure than what they've ever heard before. **Verses 22-23, 24** – "…'Go shut yourself inside your house.'" – Now, whose house!? The house of Israel. **Matthew 10:22**; speaking of the very same people that Ezekiel – referred to as the 'watchman' is talking about! And here Jesus talks about these people! And He's talking to His people in that day, but it has a more important meaning in the end-time. The second fulfillment of the prophecy. So many prophecies have an early fulfillment, and then they have a much more powerful latter fulfillment.

Matthew 10:5-6, 22 "'And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.'" – this is an end-time prophecy! Even though the story started out in about 30 AD, the story became a prophecy for the end-time. **Verse 23** – So, 'go you to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' Now, think about that phrase, 'lost sheep.' Jesus said, 'feed My sheep.' Now in one sense the physical people of Israel are the 'lost sheep.' But in an even more spiritual, more heightened, more intense meaning, I think Jesus Christ might very well be saying, 'Go to the lost Church member's.' 'Go to those people who thought they were in a good organization, they didn't realize their leaders were corrupt and their doctrines were impure – or highly compromised.' 'Go to those lost sheep!' I think it has a double meaning!

If you go back to the Book of **Ezekiel**, again **chapter 3, verse 25** – remember He said they will persecute you!? Jesus said, talking about the same people. The end-time teachers of the Truth of God, the Truth of Jesus Christ, 'they're going to persecute you!' Well, here, he's told, 'they will put ropes on you and bind you with them.' **Verse 26** – what He's saying is, 'After a while I'm through talking to them. I'm done. That's enough! I've tried to reach them, I've sent them My prophets, they've turned them away and many they've killed! Hated. Denigrated. I'm just through, they've tried. It's over!'

Again, when the Bible says one thing one time – because it's the Word of God – it's something you need to listen to. However, moreover, or above that, when the Bible says something multiple times over and over, God is SCREAMING AT YOU, 'Listen to what I'm trying to tell you!' 'It's IMPORTANT!' "…'whether they hear or whether they refuse, …'"

Again, **Ezekiel 3:11** – Ezekiel was told, "And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people …" – now I have tried to say throughout here that in the end-time the end-time servants of God, the watchmen of Israel, will indeed – not only will they stand before the 'beast' power and the false prophet in Jerusalem, telling them just like Moses and Aaron, 'Let my people go!' – but they, also like Ezekiel, will be given access to God's providential "taxi-service." Just like Ezekiel here, he was moved around to a lot of different places. And God told him, "go, get to the captives, to the children of your people."

And in that future event, they will be going, I think, specifically to members of the Church of God who simply never really did get the Message, and who's hard hearts and misguided teachings leave them in a spiritually unnourished state, where they are not protected in the end-times.

And they, having gone into captivity, God sends His two end-time prophets – the two witnesses – to go to these people and directly speak to them, and to give them, as it were, one last chance to get their head right and to get their mind around the proper directives. And as I say, I imagine the Message might be this: 'You folks, who have lived bound up, worshiping the Old Covenant and the principles of the Old Covenant – look to Jesus, not Moses!' 'Look to the New Covenant, look to the great High Priest, look to the promises of the New Covenant, and you must sever this fatal attraction you have of wanting to be Jewish or Jewish-like. LOOK TO JESUS!' And He's going to say, "Go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse.'"

Jesus Christ said, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit, what the Spirit of God is saying to the churches!' And so in the end-time, God will have to do that one more time, through His prophets. The end-time prophets. The two witnesses. Listen to these Words, if you will, if you can. Hear what the Spirit of God is trying to tell you. As a member of the Body of Christ it is required of you to hear what God says, not necessarily what human beings try to tell you. But there are people right now in different organizations who are more enamored with their human leader or human leaders than they are the personage of Jesus Christ. And I'm gonna tell you, the only way you have of making it into eternal life is directly and totally through Jesus Christ. And if you hang on to these human traditions, and if you hang on to these human people, worshiping them, idolizing them, you will be in trouble. I so much wish that you will hear these words.

He says in **Verse 12** – "Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: 'Blessed is the glory of the LORD from His place!' … **14**) So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, …" – this divine "taxi-service." Which is composed of super archangels. Just like other prophets of old, they managed to move them around when it needed to be done. Here Ezekiel experienced that. **Verses 15-16, 17** – "'Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; …" – remember the house of Israel can stand for two different things: 1) it can stand for the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph – the house of Israel. 2) but also the Church of Jesus Christ – the Church of God – the chosen people, the Body of Christ. And many times they are also called the house of Israel. "…'therefore hear a Word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me" – so once again, very clear indication that these… remember 'to the captives, to the children of your people.' This is not before the captivity, this is AFTER they have gone into captivity! And God says to Ezekiel, 'Go to the house of Israel and give them one last WARNING!' And this I believe is VERY PROPHETIC! I think this is what will happen in the end-time. **Verse 18** – "'When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, …'" – so here is a prophet or prophets, they've been told 'go to these people and give them one last Message!' 'Try to reach them one last time!' 'And if you don't warn them, and you don't speak to warn them, "'the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall [indeed] die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand." - Again, a very STERN WARNING! Basically, Jesus Christ is saying, 'You do what I tell you to do, and if you don't, their death which they have earned will also be shared by you!' However He says in **Verse 19** – "'Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you [shall] have delivered your [own life].'" – you shall have protected yourself. This is a powerful motivation for the servants of God to do what they are supposed to do in the end-time. And it's not just about warning the people outside the Church. But here, there's no doubt in my mind, this means people who are supposed to be INSIDE the Church! But they've deluded themselves, they've corrupted themselves. They've gone off on tangents which have nothing to do with their true purpose. They believe in human myth and human traditions. And they look to human leaders for their salvation when the whole time they should have been looking to JESUS CHRIST! **Verse 20** – "'Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand." – so even a righteous man that got himself confused, NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT!! I know a lot of people who know a lot of the truth of God, but they've gotten themselves involved in organizations which are "off-the-mark." They're not hitting the mark. They've gone into other places. Other thoughts, other ideas. He says, 'If you don't go warn them, yes they will die, but again, because you did not warn them, I will require their blood at your hand!' **Verse 21** – "Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live

because he took warning; …'" – 'because you did what I told you to do. You fulfilled your purpose.' "…'also you will have delivered your [life].'" – and that's what the word "soul" there means in the *King James English*, it just means life. It doesn't mean immortal soul or spirit or something. **Verse 22** – "Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there, and He said to me, 'Arise, go out into the plain, and there I shall talk with you.' **23**) "…the glory which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face." – and this River Chebar is in what we now call IRAQ. Funny how you hear that name so often anymore. ISIS, Islamic State. Just seems like we can't get away from them, no matter how hard we try – and even in the end there will be some of the people of God who have gone astray, who will suffer horribly at the hands of their Israeli captives, their Muslim captives. **Verses 24-25, 26** – "…'for they are a rebellious house." – like some of them, no matter what you say, they're not going to listen. Some of them are so self-righteous – again what does the word "self-righteous" mean!? **Luke 18:9** – "Also He [Jesus Christ] spoke this parable [sort-of a puzzle; you think you understand it, but unless your guided by God's Spirit you really don't] to some [to certain religious people; in fact they thought they were very religious people; in fact they were religious leaders of religious people] who trusted in themselves that they were righteous [they had just developed this idea, 'Well, I know I'm right, because I know I'm right!' 'I know I'm right, because I think I'm right!' 'I know I'm right, because God just wouldn't let me do anything else!' 'I know I'm right… well… just because I am!' 'they trust in themselves that they are righteous'], and [notice this "and"] despised others: …" – and I have to tell you, I know people who claim to be a part of the Body of Christ – the Church of God – who trust in themselves that they are righteous and yet, seemingly all that they do is despise others. One little guy that I think of has simply been described as "full of hate." "…'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee [that's a religious guy, duly noted, robes and all, titles, everything – got the office, has the building, he is the "top dog," or a "top dog"] and the other a tax collector [a publican; and you know what you think about the IRS!? And you know how they are always trying to grab into your pocket and grab more nickels and dimes, and it just seems to get worse and worse. Well, I doubt any of you would invite an IRS agent to your house for dinner, so you would probably ignore him or shun him. The people back then did the same, they didn't think much of the publicans – the tax collectors. And many times they were Jewish people, and not only did the Jewish people think they were taking their money, but also thought they were traitors. They were working for the Romans, they had a very bad reputation]. **11**) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with [or rather within] himself, [he wasn't praying to God, he was just talking to himself, because God doesn't hear him]'" – but he says, "'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even this [lowly, flea bitten] tax collector.'" – and then this religious man proceeds to tell God how righteous he is – **Verse 12** – "'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'" – and I'm sure if we were to hear the full version, he went on and on about all the things that he did. **Verse 13** – "'And the tax collector, [ashamed of who he was; ashamed of what he had done, very repentant and sorrowful] standing afar off,

would not so much as raise his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast [a very common expression of repentance and sorrow back in those days],'" – and all he said to God was, "'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'" – 'forgive me, please forgive me!' Well Jesus said in **Verse 14** – "'I tell you, this man [this tax collector, who had this attitude of repentance and wanting to change and wanting to rely upon Jesus Christ] went down to his house justified [meaning: made right before the eyes of God; to be made holy] rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, …'" – for the religious people who try and tell you how righteous they are, my suggestion is, "get your shoes on and run as fast as you can the other direction!" Because any encounter with these people will end up staining you and poisoning you. "…'and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'" – something to think about. 'Those that trust in themselves that they are righteous.'

Ezekiel – this is the people he's dealing with in **verses 25 & 26, chapter 3**. And at the end of verse 26, God says, "they are a rebellious house," even though you go to them directly from Me. It's as though you are unable to speak because they are not gonna hear you. Now, the prophet here in this story, the implication is that he's still supposed to tell them! But in the end, some of them won't listen. And I can well imagine that happening in the future. I can easily see that! Because of the other people's 'self-righteousness.' **Verse 27** – "But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.'" – now chapter 3 of Ezekiel is amazingly similar to chapter 33 of Ezekiel.

Again, we're talking about end-time events. We're talking about end-time prophecies. And when these prophecies are in effect, people have already gone into captivity. They are already going through their own personal 'Day of the Lord,' a day of torment, of pain and suffering.

Ezekiel 33:1 – "Again the Word of the LORD came to me, …" – this is not Ezekiel just dreaming up some ideas, 'Hey I think I'll start a church and create my own ideas!' No. This is Ezekiel hearing directly from Jesus Christ. **Verse 2** – "'Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory [their borders] and make him their watchman, …'" – so at a time of impending war He's saying you need to have some people watching out for you. **Verse 3** – "'when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet …'" – again, you think about the blowing of the TRUMPET on the SEVEN TRUMPETS in the Book of Revelation, and those seven trumpets are followed by the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES which are the DAY OF THE LORD (different name but the same event). "…and warns the people, …'" – let's quickly turn to Isaiah 58.

Isaiah 58 – remember, He just said there in Ezekiel, "'Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them'" – speak to them, deliver this Message. It's not like that

particular servant has a choice. He's commanded by God, 'This is what I want you to do!' Well notice what Isaiah 58 says.

Isaiah 58:1 – speaking again to a prophet of God; and whether it was way back when or in the very near future, God doesn't change, same mentality, same approach – "'Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, …'" – and again, are these the physical people of Israel!? In part, probably. But I think even more dramatically, these are the so-called spiritual people of Israel. The churches which are supposed to represent the Way of God. 'Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet.' Well, in some small manner, to some small degree, that's what I am trying to do. And we're trying to blow the TRUMPET! And you might think, 'Well, he's sort-of cruel on some of those guys, he's sort-of rough on them.' Let me say this: There's a very good possibility that if they do not wake up and hear that Message and hear that WARNING, that they may very well end up dying. I do not want them dead. I do not want them to suffer. And I also do not want their blood upon my head. And so we speak, we speak the truth, whether people like it or not. We speak what God says, from the Book – the Word of God! The Will of God! The Truth of God, the Plan of God! And to the best of our ability we're trying to feed the sheep of Jesus Christ!

Verse 4; Ezekiel 33 – "then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.'" – 'he was told, he was WARNED, and he was too stupid or too stubborn, too rebellious, to listen to It. Too trusting in himself that he was righteous, too trusting in herself that she was righteous, not knowing just how dirty, and decerped.' Well, how does He say that in Revelation to the one group!? **Revelation 3** – to one group He says, Jesus Christ speaking, to a portion of His so-called Church, "'Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked…'" – a very SERIOUS OBSERVATION! And that's what's going on here in Ezekiel. Again **Verse 4** – "…'whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, …'" – because they think their rich, they think their increased with goods, they think they have need of nothing, and they do not understand just how miserable and poor and lacking in understanding they are! And one of the reasons they are lacking in understanding is because they're religious tentacles are in the soil of the Old Covenant! Their roots are feeding off the Old Covenant! And they do not understand that they need to change and become adherents and practicers, believers in the PROMISES OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE NEW COVENANT!

It's not about becoming Jewish, it's like becoming more like Christ! And I've met a lot of people in the tradition of the *Worldwide Church of God* who deep down inside want to be Jewish, or Jewish-like. They want to worry about the traditions, the myths, the mythology, and just get all wrapped up in it. And I'm telling you, the more you go that direction, the more you have cut yourself off from Jesus Christ! Who is your ONLY

Redeemer, your ONLY hope of salvation! **Verses 5, 6** – "But if the watchman [the prophet from God] sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'" – because he didn't do his job! **Verse 7** – "'So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; …'" – again, is that the physical house of Israel or the spiritual house of Israel!? I think it's a little bit of both. I think it's some for the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and I also think it's for those people who at one time was given access to the knowledge of God and to the Spirit of God, and yet, they have become so entangled with human traditions, and human worship, that they no longer hear the voice of God. And they do not hear the voice of a true prophet from God. "… therefore you shall hear a Word from My mouth and warn them for Me. **8**) When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you DO NOT speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.'" – think about how many times He's said this here in these two chapters! I've been saying, if God says one thing one time, well, you better listen! But what if God says the same thing over, and over, and over, and over – He's simply trying to pound it into you – 'listen to what I'm telling you!' This is really IMPORTANTE! And this information is very IMPORTANT! **Verses 9-10, 11** – "'Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

Now if He's speaking of the physical house of Israel, He's talking about death – physical death. But those people will have an opportunity to come up in the "Great White Throne Judgment" and live again, to learn the truth of God, and then be a part of the Kingdom of God. However, what if He's speaking to the spiritual house of Israel!? If you're a member of the spiritual house of Israel that means at one time you had the knowledge of God enough that you were under… you'd gone too far, you couldn't go back. You've been granted repentance, you've been granted baptism and God's Spirit, your name, at one time, was written in the Book of Life, but if you will now not turn from your evil ways, your human ways, your human organizational ways – if you don't, your death will not be a temporary death, but your death will be the second death – the death from which there is no resurrection! The final death. The lake of fire. Eternal extinction. So, for those of you who know the truth of God, this is **Verses 12, 13** – "'When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness …'" – remember the parable Luke 18!? 'Those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous.' "…'and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die.'" – of leaving the path down which he should have been going he shall die for it. There's a whole lot of people that I know – that I've met over the years – who sort-of had the idea, 'Well, you know, I heard the truth of God, and, God granted me repentance and I walked into the baptismal pool and I came out and the minister slapped

his hands on me and said a prayer and I know that my name is in the Book of Life… and well… job over!' 'I'm done!' IF you think that, you deceive yourself badly! That's the start, that's not the finish. Remember Jesus saying, 'Whosoever shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved'!? He didn't say, 'Well, those of you twenty, thirty years ago you got a good start, but then you sort-of just petered out.' He doesn't say that! Remember Paul said, 'Work out your salvation with fear and trembling'!? He did not mean that you could make yourself righteous, because nobody can, only Jesus Christ, but what he said is: Stay close to Jesus Christ on a regular basis, be consistent in the proper frame of mind, so that God can pour out His righteousness upon you and therefore you will be eternally blessed and saved. **Verses 14, 15** – "'if the wicked restores the pledge [the contract, the covenant, that he's supposed to have with Jesus Christ], gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life [what are the statutes of life!? – **The Ten Commandments** - now the Old Covenant, the law of Moses is DONE AWAY, but now we walk in newness of life and the New Covenant; the Bible commands compliance with the TEN COMMANDMENTS! The eternal relevancy of the Ten Commandments] without committing iniquity [iniquity is sin. What is sin!? Sin is the breaking of the Law. What is the Law!? Is it the Old Covenant!? No. Is it the law of Moses!? No. IT'S the Ten Commandments under the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, under the context of the New Covenant and the promises thereof], he shall surely live; he shall not die.'" – because they will be washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ! Gone, just totally gone! Like He once said, 'I will turn your crimson like snow.' Your sin which was glaring like blood, will just be cleaned like the white fresh driven snow! **Verses 16, 17** – "'Yet the children of your people say, 'The Way of the Lord is not fair! But it is their way which is not fair!'" – their way is not right. **Verses 18, 19** – "…'and does what is lawful and right, …'" – lawful and right is using the standard of the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Now, if you judge your life by the Old Covenant, you may say, 'Well, I'm adhering to the Old Covenant, in fact, everyday I'm getting a little more Jewish.' And you're so very proud of yourself, you are drifting away from Jesus Christ! And so you will totally be out of touch with Him, you won't even know who He is. He could tap you on the shoulder and you wouldn't know Him. Verse 20 – "'Yet you say, 'The Way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, …'" – again, is He speaking about physical Israel!? I think He's talking more about spiritual Israel. I think He's talking about people who supposedly at one time were bonafide Church members. And yet they have drifted far, far from the truth that they were supposed to know. "…'I will judge every one of you according to his ways.'" – that's that principle I have been talking about consistently through the Bible – Old Testament, New Testament. 'I will judge you according to your ways.' **Verse 27** – "'Say thus to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'As I live, surely those who are in the ruins shall fall by the sword, and the one who is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, …'" – people who will NOT be protected. And death will come upon them. "…'and those who are in the strongholds and caves shall die of the pestilence [probably starvation]. **28**) For I will make the land most desolate, [this is talking about the Day of the Lord], her arrogant strength shall cease, and

the mountains of Israel [the nations of Israel] shall be desolate that no one will pass through.'" **Verses 29, 30** – "'As for you, son of man [speaking to the end-time prophets; the watchman, the two witnesses], the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls …'" – did you hear the phraseology!? 'Son of man, you who are trying to tell them the truth, the children of your people – the members of the churches of God – are still talking against you,' "…beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; [on the telephone, on the Internet, church services, and any other way they can communicate, e-mails] and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, 'Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.'" – let's hear what he's saying. I wonder what he's up to!? **Verse 31** – "'So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people do, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.'" - their GREED, their greed for power, greed for prestige, maybe greed for money. **Verses 32, 33** – "…'then they will know that a prophet has been among them.'" - But a Message which many of them will reject. Because they're too tied in to their old religious ways. 'Well, I was born into that family!' 'And I'll die being a part of that family!' But as for me, I was born in iniquity, but hopefully, through the grace of God, I will die with the blessing of Jesus Christ. I wish that for all of you. All of us were born apart from God, and yet, because of a miracle, God has opened up to you the possibility of hearing the truth of God.

A Time of Great Troubles

Ezekiel 5 – this contains a lot of information – as I said, the Day of the Lord, which is equivalent to – prophetically speaking – with the Day of Atonement. It is the single most prophesied event in the Bible. Nothing comes close to it. No other events – not the Kingdom of God, the Millennium, beyond the Millennium – none of them are even close to their representation as the Day of the Lord. And as we get into this chapter here you're going to see that information. Again, what is the Day of the Lord!? It is that moment, in future history (is it a year away, five years, ten years, I don't know), at the end of this age where mankind is in charge of ruling, of providing for himself.

For six-thousand years, basically, human beings have been allowed to do, basically, most of the time, whatever they want to do. If they want to be happy and prosper they have been allowed to do so. If they want to be angry and partake in war and killing, they've been allowed to do so. And for the most part God the Father and Jesus Christ have been hands off. They're basically saying, 'We're going to give you a chance, you human beings, to show what you can do.' Now, in the end, IF Jesus Christ doesn't intervene … **Matthew 24** – shows us a very classic Scripture in the "end-time scenarios" – **Matthew 24**, **Mark 13**, and **Luke 21** are the three chapters that contain information about the last prophetic announcements made by Jesus Christ. Often called the "Olivet Prophecies." The question was, **verse 3** – the disciples came to Jesus privately, not Him speaking to the masses, He was speaking to a small selected group. "…'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'" – the age – the time period when humans are in charge of the Earth and they are allowed to do whatever, basically, they want to do. But then, it all comes to an end, because 'what shall be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the age?' So, **Matthew 24:21** says, right before the end of this age, "'For then there will be great tribulation …'" – now the *Worldwide Church of God* and people who are often associated with the *Worldwide Church of God* or its descendants changed that phrase 'great tribulation' into a THREE WORD PHRASE: "THE GREAT TRIBULATION."

THE great tribulation. It doesn't say that! And I don't like to use the term "the great tribulation" because it gets people all messed up – they really don't understand the significance of what you're trying to say. Jesus is talking about a TIME OF GREAT TROUBLES! Great problems, worldwide global issues! Where the whole world is, sort-of, becoming unraveled. "'For then there will be great [problems], such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.'" – just around the corner for you and for me, if you live long enough, and most of you, if you're in good health, you probably will live long enough to experience this event!

And for some of you this will not be a good experience, and for some of you it will be a grand and glorious event because you are being protected. And I think that simply comes down to attitude. If your heart is right with God and Jesus Christ, I believe in their benevolent love and caring – from the promises of the Bible – They will take care of you. And yet, even though you know the truth of God, even though maybe at one time you were baptized, claiming to know the truth of God, and yet if your attitude is raunchy, hostile, evil, aggressive, and there's an awful lot of that within the churches of God – I mean the best place to ever go to find hatred is probably into a high school gym, when a basketball game is being played. Or, go and hang out with some members of, or rather, former members of the *Worldwide Church of God* or its descendants. And many of the leaders of these different groups, each vying for power and prestige, these leaders can be vicious, angry, hateful, dominating, domineering, dictatorial – there's an awful lot of hatred within the so-called church of God! And for those people, again I'm not the judge, I'm not in charge, I can't make that decision, but everything I read in the Bible suggests to me strongly, that if you have that evil heart, that aggressive heart, that unforgiving heart, that probably you will not receive the blessings of protection in this era of great problems that He's talking about here in **verse 21**. And He says it will be such a fantastically horrible time NOTHINGS EVER BEEN LIKE IT BEFORE NOR EVER WILL BE! "'such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.'" The most single traumatic event in the world's history! It's right around the corner! Again, I can't tell you when, but I know it's not far away! Every Biblical sign – prophetic sign – tends to indicate we're a whole lot closer than we probably even realize. Then, Jesus Christ said in verse 22 – "'And unless those days were shortened, …'" – meaning what!? The return of Jesus Christ!

"…'no flesh would be saved; …'" – and as some translations say, 'no flesh would be saved ALIVE …' "…'but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.'" – and that word "elect" there, I think is referring to the physical descendants of Israel. Once named Jacob. There was Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (who had twelve sons; he eventually had his name changed to

Israel), and those twelve sons became the progenitor's of different tribes of people. And those people live in many of the so-called Western world. And many of those descendants came here to America. Some of them were the establishing people of the British Isles. Some of those people ended up in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa. And those physical people God has always loved – always wanted the help – but they haven't been very good about returning that favor. Often rebellious, bull-headed, just refusing to do what God wants them to do. Well, they will suffer. But they're not going to die out, because 'for the elect's sake' Jesus Christ is indeed going to come back to this earth and put a stop to what would be, probably, massive thermal nuclear warfare! And the result of radiation, along with all of the other chemicals and biological weapons that mankind, in its "wisdom," has developed – and I say wisdom very sarcastically. Now, what is it about a race of people that have actually gone out of their way to design weapons that could destroy the entire race!? The human race!? Quite phenomenal! Quite unbelievable! We're not talking about one guy picking up a rock and throwing it at another, and yes, that would probably hurt if you got hit with that rock, could do a lot of damage, and if well placed, it could even maybe be your demise. But we're talking about a situation in which EVERY human being faces death!! Unless Jesus Christ intervenes. If you would, turn to John chapter 14:

John 14 – classic Scripture, known by many, known by millions, read by millions, preached at many a funeral, sometimes not the whole three verses. **Verse 1** – "'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2**) In My Father's house [the Kingdom of God is what He's referring to; in the Kingdom of God] are many mansions [dwellings, positions or places]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.'" – at many funerals that's the last they read of John 14. It's sad because verse 3 is a powerful nugget of truth. **Verse 3** – "'And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again …*'" – that's the greatest promise in the Bible!! In fact, nothing comes close to that promise, and yet, many churches – so-called Christian churches – don't even talk about this, don't even think about it. It's not even a part of their doctrine. But here He says, 'I will come again!' And there are some church groups that believe that Jesus Christ will return. Again, there's a lot of confusion about when, where and how. "…'and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.'" – those are very encouraging Words, but He said, 'I WILL COME AGAIN!' Jesus Christ, someday, in the not-too-distant future, is going to return to this Earth, and when He does – or just before He does and as He does – there will be the Day of the Lord. It is a date in future history where Jesus Christ directly confronts rebellious evil sinful mankind and will punish this world, and quite literally, break it down and then He will start over! Building a society which is often called the Millennium, the World Tomorrow, it will be the millennial reign of Jesus Christ! Where finally, after things are cleaned up and straightened up, the Earth will become the utopia that God the Father and Jesus Christ always meant it to be. And that's what the Day of the Lord is. The time when Jesus Christ intervenes and He stops all

of the anger and all of the killing, all of the issues, false governments will be destroyed, false religions will be destroyed, false philosophies will be destroyed, false leaders will be destroyed, false religious leaders will simply be – well, they either change real quick or they will be eradicated. We're going to get this EARTH cleaned up and the place God always wanted it to be!

Ezekiel 5 – and this is sort-of odd. This scene we're about to read, is a little perplexing but it has a meaning. And we're going to get to that meaning in just a few verses. In verse 12 it will become clearer what he's trying to say. God said to Ezekiel His prophet, "'son of man, take a sharp sword, take it as a barber's razor, and pass it over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the hair.'" He says in **Verse 2**, this is a reference to the DAY OF THE LORD, and you're going to see that more clearly as this chapter continues. "'You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city [talking about the hair], when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around it with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them.'" – at this point it's sort-of mysterious, or opaque what the Bible's trying to tell us. It becomes clear in just a few verses. **Verse 3** – "'You shall also take a small number of them and bind them in the edge of your garment.'" – a few of these hairs. 'A few of these hairs sort-of roll up in your robe.' **Verse 4** – "'Then take some of them again and throw them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will go out into all the house of Israel.'" – remember, Israel, once named Jacob had 12 sons. Basically, in our world today, many of the nations of Western Europe, the British Isles, America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa have descended from those 12 sons. And the 'house of Israel' God is saying, 'You were supposed to be Mine,' and some of the verses actually say, 'I married Israel,' but then at some point God said, 'I divorced Israel, too.' Because they simply would not do what they were supposed to do, they did not live up to the marriage vows. But a FIRE, punishment, great problems, great issues, is going to come upon the house of Israel. It's not here yet, but it just doesn't seem to be that far down the road. **Verse 5** – "'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'This is Jerusalem; …'" – and Jerusalem is the capital of one of those tribes which is the tribe of Judah. We often say the Jews. All Jews are a part of the house of Israel. But not all members of the house of Israel are Jewish. There were 12 bothers. Not just one. A lot of people don't understand that about the Bible. They see the word Israel, they automatically think Jewish people. Well God has a very special place in His heart for the house of Israel. God Almighty and Jesus Christ also have a very special place in Their heart for the people of Judah. Jesus Christ was born in the lineage of the house of Judah. He was Jewish. That drives a lot of the really Right-Wing radicals off… that just drives them crazy! Because many of them have an anti-Jewish hatred, and the idea that their Savior was Jewish, is almost more than some of them can handle. But, that's what the Bible says, so you better get used to it. "…I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her. **6**) She has rebelled against My judgments by doing wickedness more than the nations [meaning even

more than the Gentile people; the nonIsraelites], and against My statutes more than the countries that are all around her; for they have refused My judgments, and they have not walked in My statutes.'" – and the greatest judgment that they threw away was the divinity of Jesus Christ as being the true Messiah and the Son of God. They couldn't handle that. In fact, the people of Jerusalem, almost two-thousand years ago, chanted in unison, wanting to see the death, the crucifixion – a horrible death – of Jesus Christ. 'Crucify him!' 'Crucify him!' 'Crucify him!'

And they were led in that chant by the religious people of the day. The Pharisees and the Sadducees, the members of the temple elite. And they got their wish. But in doing so, they literally placed a curse on their own head, and their people for hundreds of years – even over two-thousand years. And they have suffered because of that curse. **Verses 7, 8** – "…'I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.'" – you know it's a terrible thing to fall into the hands of an angry God – so said the apostle Paul in the Book of Hebrews! And it's a terrible thing when God says to an entire tribe of people or country, 'I am against you!' And basically, He's saying, 'You will be punished. For your rebellion, for your hatred, for your resentment, for your lack of respect for who I am and what I am trying to do with you.' **Verse 9** – "'And I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations.'" – you know the people of the Western world, they have a pretty high opinion of themselves. I mean, here in America, we, in our national zeal, we believe that we're a great country, we believe that we have great ideals and great customs. And, many of the traditions that has arisen in this country, in one sense, are noble. Compared to other things that we see. Much more noble as, shall we say, Islamic terrorists, who just want to cut your head off or burn you up in a fire, or kill you in some horrible manner. Now, most of our people are not that way, although we have a few mentally ill and criminally deranged people, but most of the people are pretty good people. However, we're not nearly as good as we think we are. And we don't walk in accordance with God's Laws. And, at this present time, we have leaders in Washington, D.C. that seem to have an antipathy towards anything Christian and anything godly. Now we, as our nation seems to be very empathetic – and I'm talking from the highest levels of government – towards, let's say, the Muslim religion, the religion of Islam. And yet, people who proclaim to be Christians, don't get a lot of breaks anymore. It's almost like being a Christian can almost act as a curse. Because the government doesn't want much to do with Christians. It's a very bizarre set of circumstances. Our nation here was formed on Christian principles. Our government was actually formed on principles which the Founding Fathers found in the Bible! And yet now, many of our government leaders are ashamed to even admit that Jesus Christ exists. You know, on our coins it says, "In God We Trust," but most people don't. And our government doesn't. And I think we're in real trouble because of that!

God says, 'I will do among you what I have never done … because of all your abominations.' False religion is an abomination in the eyes of God! Now, how do you tell

a false religion from a real religion, a true religion!? A proper religion!? I've said over and over, the only place you can go is the Bible. The Bible is the official rule book on what God says is holy and what God says is not holy. And if you're not doing that which is holy, then you are – in the eyes of God – committing abominations. And therefore in our country, even though a whole lot of people think they are righteous, because they will throw in the name Jesus Christ like spiritual salt n' pepper on a meal. But when you start to examine what they actually do, they do not do what the Bible wants them to do. But rather they cling to human traditions and human mythologies, and the idea, 'Well our church father's say this. Our church leaders say that.' But all you need is your Bible! I have often used a phrase when answering the question, "What is your religion!?" And I would say, "If I just give you a name you would treat me like I was a little peg, and you'll put me on your little wall, and that little peg goes into that hole, and you won't really understand the significance of what I'm trying to tell you." So I say, "I'm not going to give you a name, other than, I refer to myself as a 'Biblican.'" It's a word and a phrase I made up. A Biblican. I am one that believes we in our religious practices should follow what the Bible says. Not what church doctrines say, not what church traditions says, not what church mythology says! And because I am so bold, and sort-of out of step, with most people, I have had a lot of ability to step on a lot of toes. Even within my so-called church group. To the point where I believe that we as a church group need to start talking about the relevancy of Jesus Christ and the offer of His graciousness and love – the New Covenant. The importance of the TEN COMMANDMENTS and not hanging on to Old Testament traditions, which the Bible plainly says, 'had a time,' but with the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ they didn't exist anymore! WE NEED TO LOOK TO JESUS! Not Moses or any other human being! And there are people of the tradition of the *Worldwide Church of God* who, now scattered out into different organizations, and they hold their leader on a pedestal. Almost as though the Catholics hold the pope or the Mormons hold their swamy up high. And it was never meant to be that way. We should have our eyes fixated on JESUS CHRIST and ON THE WORD OF GOD! And if you do that, your eyes won't be clouded, you won't be subject to misinterpretations and mythologies and traditions that don't come from the Bible. **Verse 10** – this is a chilling verse. This is an uncomfortable verse, even to read. It's difficult to even imagine, and yet, many times in American history, going back to the founding of James Town, going to the ill-faded Donner Party in the 1800s as people were trying to get out to California. In different incidences, even in our country, people have resorted because of their starvation, to cannibalism. And again that's just really difficult for most people to wrap their minds around. I guess if you haven't been that starved you don't know. I never have. But the idea of starving over days and weeks to the point where it even starts to affect the way your brain works, that they would resort to cannibalism!? Now, this is talking about a time in our future history – not that far away – where God says, "'Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments among you [and on you], and all of you who remain I will scatter to all the winds.'" – the remnant, the people who do not die. In

warfare, pestilence, disease, starvation – the few who live – He will scatter to the four winds. Which is why I spoke about the people of Israel being "reclaimed" at the beginning of the return of Jesus Christ. Being brought back together, being saved, being brought back from all the places they had been taken captive. And God, led by the resurrected King David, and many of the resurrected saints who will work with David, actually take those people and bring them together and nurse them back to health. They will form an army and those people will eradicate most of the religious vermin around them. God will get rid of these false religions. And sometimes He will do it by simply executing the people who believed in them. And He will use the nation of Israel. Again, 'all of you who remain,' the remnant, those of you who haven't died, 'will I scatter into all the winds.'

Verse 11 – "'Therefore, as I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary …'" – sanctuary, meaning what!? 'You took a set of ideas, and said it was of God, when in fact it was not of God!' 'You have defiled the very concept of religion – proper religion – in the eyes of God!' "…'You have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations [meaning false doctrines], therefore I will also diminish you [reduce you; eliminate you]; My eye will not spare, nor will I have any pity.'" – Now I know, on the very week after the Sandy Hook Elementary School Murders, I gave a sermon titled, "Pray Not For This People." Because God has these prophecies where He says, 'Don't even offer up a prayer, I'm not gonna hear it. Don't even do it!' Now, at this point God says, 'I'm done!' Saying, 'I'm done trying to help. I'm done having My hand slapped away. I'm done having my face spit into.' HE SAID THE JUDGMENTS WILL COME FORTH!!! God says, "'My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity.'" It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God! And this is the Word of God and this is telling us what He's going to do in that time period called the Day of the Lord! Right about the time when Jesus Christ returns. **Verse 12** – allusions was made of this earlier, part of that beard and hair cutting was all about, this is the explanation, "'One-third of you shall die of the pestilence [disease], and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you [meaning military incursion, warfare; maybe it means people killing people trying to find food!?]; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.'"

– so even the ones that escape death are still in horrible situations, most of them will be held in, what we would call, concentration camps and will suffer badly, until they are rescued by their future king, King David, under the auspices of Jesus Christ and the Family of God and the Kingdom of God. Now, you may say, "Well, that's just Old Testament!" Well, the One speaking here – the Eternal God – is the One we now call Jesus Christ. And we're told that Jesus Christ doesn't change, He's the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He made these statements, He caused them to be inspired, He caused them to be written down, He caused them to be in the Bible! And He is hoping that we will have the good sense to read the Bible and study the Bible and to learn from the Bible, so that we cannot be a part of these issues. THERE IS A WAY TO BE PROTECTED. THERE IS A WAY OF ESCAPE! That is being close to God, being close to Jesus Christ and doing Their will. And there is a promise of protection! "'One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.'" This will happen to many of the people we love and people we care about! **Verse 13** – "'Thus shall My anger be spent, and I will cause My fury to rest upon them, and I will be avenged …'" – He's saying, 'I will do as I have planned. I will fulfill My plan.' "…'and they shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spent My fury upon them.'" **Verse 14** – "'Moreover I will make you a waste [utterly destroyed – our great nation, and many other great nations where the house of Israel resides, or had such a major impact on the founding and the formation – they're going to be devastated! So says the Word of God! "….'and a reproach among the nations that are all around you, in the sight of all who pass by.'" – there will be people in other countries that will say, "What happened to America!? O' that once great, mighty and arrogant people!?" Well, they have been destroyed! Remember, a few years ago, tragically, on what we call 9/11? When the two jet-liners flew into the two towers in New York City, the Twin Towers!? And after the jet fuel poured into those buildings and the intense raging fire, and in time the metal was weakened, with time the metal just literally began to sag, and then one by one those two giant columns just came crumbling down!? We all remember the scene. We all have seen the footage. Remember what happened over in parts of the Arab world, the Islamic world!? O' they were celebrating in the streets! Even though they had had nothing to do with it, they were so happy that America sort-of got a black-eye and bloody nose. And their women were out there making that weird sound – uvulation! And the men were dancing around! So happy, so pleased with what fanatical Islamists had done. Well, that's going to happen again sometime. With the people saying, "Well, I thought they were so mighty. O' they were so arrogant. they had all this power at one time, but look at 'em now!" "They're eating dirt!" "Most of their people have died, the rest of them have been taken captive." That's going to happen to our country! and to many of the countries I have mentioned before. Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa. That is the Word of God!

You have a chance to escape this! I pray that your ears will hear and that your eyes will see, and I pray that you will go to God in prayer and say, "Help me know what to do in order to escape these horrible issues."

Verse 15 – "'So it shall be a reproach, a taunt, a lesson, and an astonishment to the nations that are all around you, when I execute judgments among you [and in you] in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I, the LORD [the Eternal; Jesus Christ], have spoken.'" **Verse 16** – "'When I send against them the terrible arrows of famine which shall be for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, I will increase the famine upon you and cut off your supply of bread.'" – meaning, there simply won't be anything to eat.

Verse 17 – "'So I will send against you famine and wild beasts and they will bereave you. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword against you. I, the LORD [the Eternal; Jesus Christ], have spoken.'" – those are pretty serious comments! That's the Word of God talking about our people! I pray that you hear this, I pray that you make the changes in your life that you need to make!

Ezekiel chapter 6 – "Now the Word of the LORD came to me, saying: **2**) 'Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel [the nations of Israel], and prophesy against them, **3**) and say, 'O mountains of Israel [in Biblical prophecies mountains are often used to describe the idea, the concept of countries], hear the Word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: 'Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you …'" – once again talking about the Day of the Lord. Which is the prophetic meaning of the Day of Atonement! "…'and I will destroy your high places.'" – your important buildings. Like the capital, the White House and the Supreme Court, your big lofty temples and churches – 'all of the high places will just be utterly smashed!' **Verse 4** – "'Then your altars [referring to your churches] shall be desolate…'" – God is saying in the prophecies of His Bible, that 'I'm pretty much going to wipe out your churches!' Now, think about that! If God says, 'I'm going to destroy your churches,' then there's a real good bet that most of the churches of this land are NOT teaching what God wants to be taught! The traditions of many of these churches are not the traditions which God wants people to follow. The doctrines are not the doctrines of God and the Bible. And some of you might say, "Well, I belong to my church and it's a nice little group, the people are friendly, we have a good time when we get together, every so often we have a potluck or we do this or that, we're kind for a few hours each week to one another." And you may go home and say, "Well I'm perfectly fine, I'm safe." And yet, THE WORD OF GOD says, 'Your altars will be destroyed!' And, "…'your incense altars [your images] shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.'" – He says some of those altars are nothing more than idols. "Thou shalt not have any other god before Me!" Very FIRST COMMANDMENT! **Verse 5** – "'And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars [your churches].'" **Verse 6** – very frightening scenarios! He's speaking, in part, to our country

here in AMERICA! **Verses 7, 8** – "'Yet I will leave a remnant [a few people live through this calamity] …'"

Verse 9 – "'Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart…'" – phrases like fornication, adultery, whorish heart, go a whoring – all of these terms, sort-of, referring to sexual innuendo, in truth, most of the time, it's not talking about improper sexual situations – it's talking about false doctrine. And getting teamed up with false churches and false leaders. You really need to be careful WHERE YOU GO TO CHURCH! It may determine whether you live or die! These whorish hearts which have gone after false doctrine "…'which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; and they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in their abominations.'" **Verse 10** – God is not just talking out His hat! He's saying this because it will happen! This is the Word of God and these are some of the promises of God.

Verses 11-14 – these are very sobering Scriptures. And, somebody might say, "Well, I want to hear some happy talk!" "I want to hear about love! Well I love everybody!" "Just love!" Sort of like the Beatles song - ♪♫♯ all you need is love ♪♫- it's a nice song, Beatles made a lot of money out of it, and it's wonderful to think that church groups could be filled with love and families could be filled with love. But in actuality most of the people who talk about love, practice behind peoples backs, hatred. The love thing is just a covering for most people. Because most people, sadly to say, have a very duplicitous heart. I have found out the hard way. About these announcements of love, fidelity. Yes, I have found out the hard way.

Ezekiel chapter 7 – "Moreover the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, [now this was Ezekiel saying this; he said he was just relaying this to you] **2**) '…An end! The end has come upon the FOUR CORNERS OF THE LAND. [that's the announcement of the Day of the Lord!] **3**) Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways. And I will repay [recompense] you for all your abominations.'" – again, one of the most consistent principles in the Bible is 'You will be judged the way you deserve to be judged.' 'You will be given that which you deserve to be given.' And some will be treated with graciousness, and some will be greeted with punishment. But you will receive according as you deserve. 'I will repay you for all your abominations.' **Verses 4, 5** – "'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come! …'" – this is the worst problem the world has ever seen or ever will see – is how Jesus Christ described it in Matthew 24!

It's talking about our people! Our loved ones. Our friends, associates, coworkers, fellow neighbors.

A Time of Great Troubles

Verse 6 – "'An end has come, The end has come; It has dawned for you; Behold, it has come!'" – IT IS COMING! He's saying it over and over – 'THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN!' 'THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN!' **Verse 7** – "'Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; The time has come. A day of trouble [another name for the Day of the Lord] is near, And not of rejoicing in the mountains [the nations of Israel; it's going to happen!].'" **Verses 8-9, 10** – "'Behold, the day! [what day!? the Day of the LORD!] Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; The rod has blossomed, Pride has budded. **11**) Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness [talking about what's going to happen to our land, our people]; None of them shall remain, None of their multitude, None of them; Nor shall there be wailing for them.'" – nobody is even going to be around to shed a tear for you! **Verse 12** – "'The time has come, the day draws near [what day!? the Day of the LORD!] 'Let not the buyer rejoice, Nor the seller mourn, For wrath is on their WHOLE MULTITUDE.'" – O' EVERYONE, except for just a handful of people who are provided protection by God Almighty and Jesus Christ! There is a way to escape all of this! IF you know the truth of God as the Bible explains that truth of God – and IF you follow that! And IF you turn to Jesus Christ! **Verses 13, 14** – "'They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, But no one goes to battle; …'" – there's coming a time when we will realize we are being sat upon by outside people, and yet we as a nation will be so weakened by death and famine, pestilence, there won't be anybody to respond. And our great people, many of them will be dead. A third of them will be held captive. **Verses 15, 16** – talking about the DAY OF THE LORD – "'Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains Like doves of the valleys, All of them mourning, Each for his iniquity.'" – a few people will live through it. But they will be filled with sorrow and sadness and mourning. **Verses 17, 18** – "'They will also be girded with sackcloth [with mourning]; Horror will cover them …'" – remember earlier, 'Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers'!? Where you will actually have within families cannibalism. That is just horror! **Verse 19** – "…'In the day of the wrath of the LORD …'" – that's the DAY OF THE LORD! **Verse 20** – "'As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations – Their detestable things …'" – God offered them tremendous beautiful truth, and yet they wouldn't have it! They rejected it because they wanted to follow traditions of human beings. **Verses 21-22, 23** – a very famous verse here, verse 23 – Mr. Ted Armstrong often referred to this verse. But he was talking about in the here-and-the-now. The verse really doesn't describe about the here-and-the-now, the verse is referring

to what will happen in the Day of the Lord, so he really didn't understand this. "'Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence.'" – I mean when you start eating your own family members, you have pretty much sunk down to the lowest level of human existence. **Verse 24** – "'Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, And they will possess their houses; I will cause the pomp of the strong to cease, And their holy places shall be defiled.'" – again, if the churches of this land were truly teaching the truth of God, why would God allow these churches to be utterly destroyed!? And yet the Bible says over and over 'their churches, their altars, their religious institutions will be completely destroyed.' Which means, somebody is not doing what God wants them to do! Not teaching the truth of God, but rather teaching the commandments of men, the traditions of men. **Verses 25, 26** – "…'Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; But the law will perish from the priest, And counsel from the elders.'" – everything breaks down. There'll be no organized anything, just chaos. **Verse 27**.

Yes, these verses are very depressing. IF you know that this is the truth. Now, if this is just a fairy-tale then don't worry about it. IF God doesn't exist and the Bible isn't His inspired Word, don't worry about it. And yet, IF God does exist and Jesus Christ does exist, IF they have inspired the writing of the Bible, and the Bible is for all of mankind – if that be so – then all of us, we need to heed what's in the Bible!

"Worship not the Queen of Heaven!"

Now, I've been talking about the Fall Holy Days. The Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, which goes for seven days, the eighth day being called the Last Great Day. And, historically, through the teachings of the Church of God – the *Worldwide Church of God* and other organizations that go by *that* name, or derivations of *that* name – they don't do a very good job of explaining what the Day of Atonement is all about. They're just stuck on a few stories and just grind them out year after year, the Azazel goat… "the Lord wants you to hurt!"… And they never have done a good job of explaining what the Day of Atonement is all about. And what I have been trying to say – the Day of Atonement is *prophetically* linked to the Day of the Lord. An event which is the most often prophesied event in the Bible. If you took all of the references and chapters to the Day of the Lord out of your Bible it would be more than half as thin as it is now. Old Testament. New Testament. Old Testament prophets, the "major" prophets, the "minor" prophets, Jesus Christ, the apostle Paul, the Book of Revelation, Peter talked about the Day of the Lord. Jude talks about the Day of the Lord. I mean it's just covered everywhere! And yet, teachers, preachers, of the *Worldwide Church of God* and many of its descendants DO NOT EXPLAIN THIS even remotely well. The Day of the Lord – that moment, probably not too far into the future, whether it's a year, five years, ten years, I don't know. But it's not going to be a hundred years from now I don't think. It most likely will occur within the lifetime of many people who are reading this right now. The Day of the Lord is not that far away! And it's the day when Jesus Christ directly interacts with human kind, and He does so in a very judgmental way, a very vindictive way – it is a day of retribution. It is a day of settling the score. Of "balancing the books." Which is what atonement actually means.

Ezekiel chapter 8 – "And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there." – now that was a pretty powerful statement there! 'the hand of the Lord fell upon me.' Meaning, he was being taken in his mind through the power of God's Spirit to see things which other people just wasn't going to see. **Verse 2** – "Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire – from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber." – Now this is very similar to a description we hear of Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation. **Revelation 1** – in which John is in Spirit, being taught by God in his mind by being allowed to see things that other people couldn't see. As John said, **Verse 10** – "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day [that means the Day of the Lord! John was saying, 'I was in the Spirit and seeing the Day of the Lord.' Now this is one of the Protestant proof texts they use to "prove" Sunday worship.

This has absolutely nothing to do with Sunday worship. This is an explanation that the apostle John is seeing things through God's Spirit about the DAY OF THE LORD! I am embarrassed when I hear them use this to mean Sunday worship. And I have heard them use this many times. Surely, they're not that Biblically ignorant that they believe *this*, but they are! And they teach it, and they have to try hard, because there's not that many places where they can stretch the Word of God to include Sunday worship. Verse 12 – and John said, "Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands," – referring to angelic beings. **Verse 13** – "and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, …" – he is seeing Jesus Christ! "…clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. **14**) His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; **15**) His feet were like fine brass, …" – remember, Ezekiel used the description 'like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber.' "…as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; **16**) He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance [His over-all appearance] was like the Sun shining in its strength."

Well, what John saw in **Revelation chapter 1** is the same thing that Ezekiel is seeing. They are seeing the same God and His name is JESUS CHRIST – that's what we call Him now.

Verse 3, Ezekiel chapter 8 – "He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, …" – this is a remarkable story here. That he's being allowed to see things that other people have not been allowed to see, or very few. When I think about places in the Bible of which I can remember where human beings were allowed to see the very throne of God. I think of a couple. I think about **Acts chapter 7**. *It's* a remarkable story. It's a story of courage, dedication, the story of a very young man, probably no more than 21, 22, who gives one of the most powerful testimonies for Jesus Christ and God Almighty anywhere in the Bible. Young Stephen went into a long litany of the history of Israel, and as he got closer to the end, and the intensity of his rhetoric increased, he says in **chapter 7, verse 51** – speaking to the religious leaders of his day, remember, Jesus Christ had almost no use for the religious leaders of His day. And Stephen here has almost nothing good to say to the religious leaders of his day – "'You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. **52**) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? …'" – that's quite a statement! Stephen is saying, 'Every prophet God ever sent you persecuted and most of them you killed!' Including JESUS CHRIST, the very Son of God! "…'And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One [Jesus Christ], of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, **53**) who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.' **54**) When they heard these things [the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the religious leaders; the temple elite] they were cut to the heart, and they

gnashed at him with their teeth. **55**) But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into Heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, …” – this young man, who is about to die, God the Father and Jesus Christ gave him the gift of allowing him to look up and actually see Them at the throne of God! That’s remarkable! It hasn’t happened too often in the pages of the Bible. And this is what young Stephen said, **verse 56** – “’Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God!’” – and by making this statement, he was declaring to the ones who had just murdered Jesus Christ, is that Jesus Christ is indeed alive and at the throne of God!

And there’s another incident, that happened to the former Saul – now the apostle Paul. **2nd Corinthians chapter 12** – “It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: **2**) I know a man in Christ …” – now Paul is speaking in the third person. But he’s referring to himself. “…who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, …” – he doesn’t know if he was there with his body, or there with just his mind. But it was so clear to him he’s not sure. But he says, “…God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.” – and as I’ve stated before, the word heaven in the Bible can have about three different meanings. The most common meaning of the word heaven is referring to the atmosphere. In some few cases the word heaven refers to what we would call outer space. And the third heaven, as Paul describes it here, and it’s not referred to too often, just a few times, is the throne of God the Father and Jesus Christ. **Verse 4** – “how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful [not proper] for a man to utter.” – but Paul witnessed it. Because Paul also had a point in his life where he needed encouragement and was allowed to hear this. And when I say he needed encouragement turn to **chapter 11, verse 22**– referring to false ministers, **verse 13** “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves [masquerading we might say] into apostles of Christ. **14**) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. **15**) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers [Satan’s ministers] also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, …” – and then Paul adds this very curdling phrase, “whose end will be according to their works.” And speaking of these and people who were so hard on him, he says in **verse 22** – “Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of

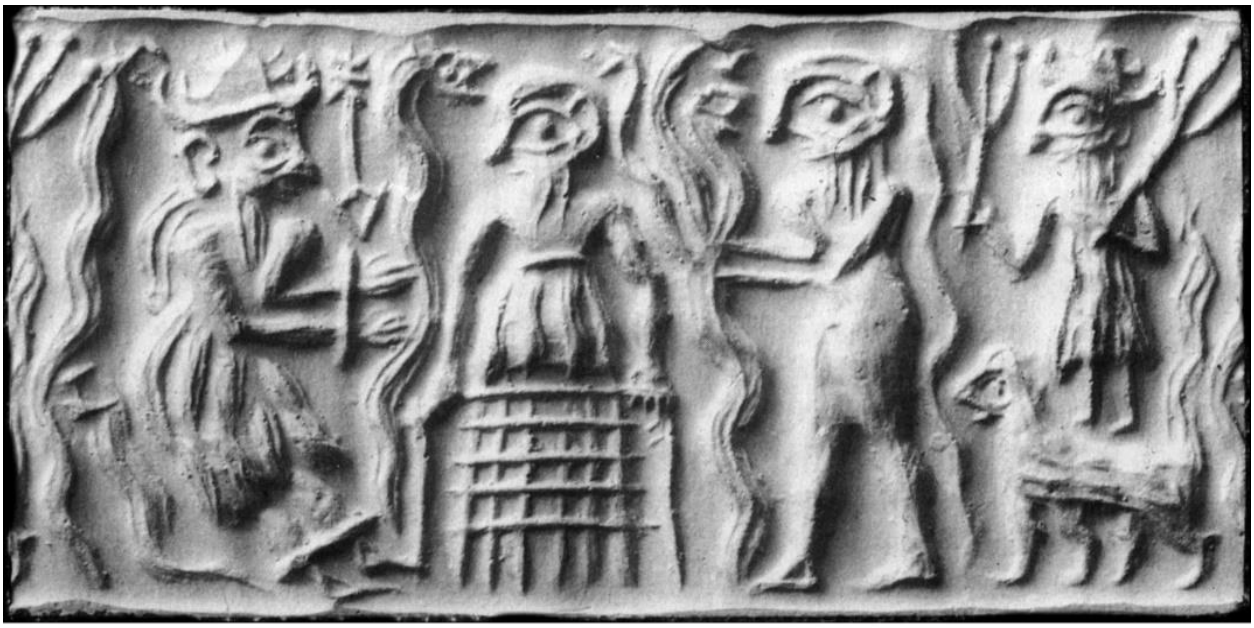
Hugh Jackman as APOSTLE PAUL (Warner Bros.)

Abraham? So am I. **23**) Are they ministers of Christ? – I speak as a fool – I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often." – there was a bunch of times Paul thought he was going to die. Paul did not have an easy life. It was down and gritty and dirty and messy and very dangerous. And he says in **Verse 24** – "From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. **25**) Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26**) in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, *in perils among false brethren* …" – now that is one apostle Paul, I think I can identify with. Because there has been a few times in my life when people who were masquerading as followers of Christ were indeed minions in the hands of Satan in order to hurt me, and attempt to destroy me. To do all they could to hurt me. **Verses 27-31**. Paul, at times, probably just got worn down. Discouraged. Overwhelmed with a sense of futility. Physical pain, mental pain. And it was on one of those moments, most likely, that we read about in **chapter 12**. In order to pick up his spirit, to resupply energy to his battery, God the Father and Jesus Christ allowed him to see the very throne of God. And to hear things which no human has ever heard. That's a remarkable story.

Again **Ezekiel chapter 8** – "…to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes of jealousy. **4**) And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, …" – 'the glory of the God of Israel was there.' "…like the vision that I saw in the plain. **5**) Then He said to me, 'Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north.' So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate was this image of jealousy in the entrance. **6**) Furthermore He said to me, 'Son of man, do you see what they are doing …" – now remember, he's in a temple, a place of worship. In today's language we would call it a church. He's seeing a church service. "…'the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations.'" – this is Jesus Christ describing church services in the people of Israel. He says there are abominations and there are greater abominations! **Verse 7** – "So He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. **8**) Then He said to me, 'Son of man, dig into the wall'; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. **9**) And He said to me, 'Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there – every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all of the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.'" – I wonder if there were any Christmas trees!?

Or bunny rabbits. Maybe there was a Santa Claus on the wall!? Again, you are free to keep any holy days you want, you're an American. Or a member of the Western world. But are you doing what God wants you to do!? That's the question you ask. You don't say, "Well I want my family to like me. I want my buddies to like me!" No, you better ask the question, "Does God care for what I am doing!?" Does He look upon me and say, 'OK, well done my

"Worship not the Queen of Heaven!"



Ancient Sumerian cylinder seal impression showing Dumuzid being tortured in the Underworld by the galla demons

good and faithful servant!' Or does He look upon what I'm doing, and He talks about the word abomination. 'Greater abominations, wicked abominations,' He says in **Verse 9**. Verse 11 – "And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel [these are the wise ones; again this is a church building. They're talking about religion. The things God sees them do religiously], and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up." – again, incense, religious. There are some churches that use incense. God doesn't seem to be speaking very well of it *here*, it is true in the ancient Old Covenant that there were incense and the containers which contained the incense. But I don't think that's what He's talking about. **Verse 12** – "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, have you seen what the elders [the ancients] of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols [imagination]? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land [the Earth].'" – they say, 'He's way off, far off. He doesn't know what we're doing!' 'So, we don't really have to worry about Him, because He doesn't worry about us!' **Verse 13** – "And He said to me, 'Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.' **14**) So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD'S house [again, he's probably being taken through the power of God's Spirit, being lifted up and moved around]; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for *Tammuz*." – who is one of the ancient god's of that world (Dumuzid, later known by the alternate form Tammuz, is an ancient Mesopotamian god associated with shepherds, who was also the primary consort of the goddess Inanna (later known as Ishtar; a name variation is Easter)). Often this very same phrase is used of the Queen of Heaven. How many have heard the phrase Queen of Heaven!? Lots of different names for this personality, including Queen Sammu-Ramat (Semiramis). I think the Egyptian world called her Isis,

which is interesting – the Islamic radicals have adopted this name. The people throughout the Middle East had different names for her. Diana, the Romans, the Greeks had a name for her, but often referred to as the Queen of Heaven. Let's look at some of those references – **Jeremiah 44** – sometimes, the Queen of Heaven is referred to as Ishtar, EASTER. The very same goddess. She was prevalent throughout many cultures. But they were all referring to the same being. **Verse 15** – "…their wives had burned incense to other gods, …" **Verse 17** – "…to burn incense to the queen of heaven …" **Verse 18** – "But since we stopped burning incense [meaning 'to worship'] to the queen of heaven …" **Verse 19** – "…'And when we burned incense ['we worshipped'] to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, …'" – I am told they made 'hot cross buns.' It's a very common custom in a lot of Western cultures. They don't know it but they are actually making an homage to the Queen of Heaven. Over in **verse 25** – "…'We will surely keep our vows that we have made , to burn incense [to worship] to the queen of heaven …'" – so, the Queen of Heaven is a focus of the ancient religions. But guess what!? Her thing was being a part of the Sun god. So when you worship the Queen of Heaven you're actually engaged in pagan Sun worship. Also, **Jeremiah chapter 7, verse 18** – ***"'The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.'"*** – I wonder if leaving cookies for Santa Claus has anything with making cakes!?

Again, go back to **Ezekiel 8, verse 14** – Ezekiel, who's being transported around by the Spirit of God – this great divine "taxicab." "So He [God] brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD'S house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz." Or, as it says in other places, the Queen of Heaven. Just above in the Book of **Jeremiah, chapter 44**, there's four or five places where it talks about the Queen of Heaven. 'They DO provoke Me to anger!' says the Lord! Well, let's turn back to the beginning of **Jeremiah chapter 7**. This is an interesting chapter! And, when I was studying this chapter and thinking of this chapter, some things just jumped off the page at me.

Traditional Christmas fireplace

Jeremiah 7:1 – "The Word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, **2**) 'Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this Word, and say, 'Hear the Word of the LORD, all you of Judah, who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!' **3**) Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Amend your ways and your doings, …'" Now, what does that mean!?

"Worship not the Queen of Heaven!"

'Amend your ways and your doings.' It's just another way of God saying, 'Repent!' And all the word repent means is *be willing to change*. When God shows you where there's an area in your life that needs to be cleaned up, HEED what God is trying to tell you! Now, sometimes, He may just tell you that in your own quite time, or in your own Bible study, your own meditation, your own prayer. And sometimes He does this by delivering a message to you by somebody *like* me. Now the message is not mine, the message comes from God. I'm just the vessel that says it out loud in English. But He says here, and look with your own eyes, 'Amend your ways!' The Book of Acts, 'Repent, and be baptized.' Be willing to change. "…'and I will cause you to dwell in this place. **4**) Do not trust in these lying words, saying, [and listen to this phraseology] 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these.'" Now you're saying, "What does that mean!?" Well, back then, there were people who looked upon the temple of God as being the ultimate place to have their religious attention. And what Jesus is saying – the One that we now know of as Jesus is the One inspiring this – is there were people back then that worshiped the temple more than worshiped the God that made the temple. Now is that possible!? Well, yeah!

I know people today, of different religions, some Protestant, some within the churches of God who worship *their religion*, with more zeal, than they worship God!

And in worshiping their religion they have convinced themselves – they trust in themselves that they're right – that they are worshiping God. And so there are people right now who worship Herbert Armstrong. He's been in his grave since January 16, 1986. And yet, there's this one outfit in the churches of God – I mean every time you see their materials it's got plastered all over it images of Herbert Armstrong. They worry more about what Herbert Armstrong said, or what this little "red-headed guy" says about him than worrying about what God says! And for them it's not the 'temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord,' to them it's 'Herbert Armstrong, Herbert Armstrong!' Well there are other people who have sort-of the same romantic notion about Ted Armstrong. They spend more time worrying about 'Ted Armstrong, Ted Armstrong, Ted Armstrong' than they do about GOD! I'm trying to say to you that the Bible is plainly *here* showing us that you can make an idol out of your church. And yet the very first commandment and will always be the very first commandment, 'Thou shalt have no other gods before Me!' And that includes the concept you have of your church. And, Mr. Ted Armstrong has been in the grave for over a decade, and yet there are some people who act like he's still alive. And there are people now within the ICG who believe – and it's really hard to figure how you get here – that what the "little guy" says is the only thing I need to listen to. Are you actually going to take a man, who's not even ordained, and treat him like he's more important than JESUS CHRIST!? ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DO THAT!? And do you not realize than when you do you turn Jesus Christ away in order that you might adopt the "little guy." My friends, please do not do this to yourselves. The only person I'm ever going to point you towards is Jesus Christ! It should be about explaining, correctly, the

Word of God, the Truth of God, the Plan of God, and our mission statement is to follow the commission of Jesus Christ when He said, 'Feed My sheep!' It is certainly not about me, never has been and never will be. It is about Jesus Christ. Don't fall victim of this idolization of a human being. And don't allow a human being to tell you what you should and should not think. Allow the Bible to tell you what you should and should not think. And the Bible, right *here*, saying, 'Don't do it!' Don't fall down this road, 'Amends you ways,' He says. Continuing, **Verses 5-7** – "…'I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever." so, where will New Jerusalem be!? In Jerusalem! Where will the throne of God be!? In what we now call the nation state of Israel!

And IF you put God first, you will live in that city as a part of the Family of God, as a part of the Kingdom of God for ever and ever. **Verse 8** – "'Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. **9**) Will you steal. murder, burn incense to Baal [to other gods], and walk after other gods whom you do not know, **10**) and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations'?" – did Jesus Christ and God the Father pull you out of the mire and the muck – which was your life – and cleaned you up, and granted you truth of God, which *is* the Truth of God, and then granted you repentance and baptism, granted you the Spirit of God!? Did He do that so that you can become captivated and held in bondage by a mean spirited, angry, emotionally unstable, human being!? That's not what He did! Look to Jesus, not some human being. Look to Jesus, not Tyler. Look to Jesus, not the "little guy" and his buddy. LOOK TO JESUS! **Verse 11** – "'Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,' says the LORD. **12**) 'But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, …'" – Shiloh was once the center of God's Ark – like His temple, although it was a canvas temple. "…where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel.'" – and we're told that Shiloh is nothing but wilderness now. Well, when I came into the knowledge of the truth of God, the center of the Church of God of the universe was Pasadena, California, the *Worldwide Church of God* and Ambassador College. Hundred and fifty thousand members and growing, a huge budget and growing, a huge output in literature, television shows, radio shows, and in multiple languages, and growing! Now go to Pasadena and look at the campus, Ambassador College no longer exists! O' some of the building may still remain, but the institution has long been gone. The *Worldwide Church of God* no longer exists! The printing presses aren't rolling, the radio stations aren't broadcasting, the television stations don't carry the program anymore. It's all dead, all gone! And why!? Because people forgot to put God the Father and Jesus Christ first. They made a religion of worshiping their religion.

They forgot to keep the Word of God first and preeminent in their lives. And they got more concerned with worshiping human beings. Well, many of those human beings are now in the grave, and that institution is long since gone. **Verse 13** – "'And now, because you

have done all these works,' says the LORD, 'and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, …'" – now, think about me, I was told by the "little guy" down in Tyler, "I'm gonna do everything within my power to DESTROY YOU, and the church in Owensboro!" You've got to understand there's a problem there! You've got to know that something is wrong! And yet some of you, you just sit on your thumbs and "Well, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD. Armstrong, Armstrong." Well, I tell you what, when a person named Armstrong has the ability to grant you eternal life… OK… go get 'em!" But the only being who can grant you eternal life is the One named Jesus Christ! Look to Jesus, not some human being! **Verse 14** – "'therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, [remember, the Church of God has the name God right in it] and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.'" – wiped it out! Pasadena, wiped out! One day, Tyler, ICG, will get wiped out by God! You simply cannot walk contrary to the Way of God! The way those leaders have done and not pay a terrible penalty. Sooner or later the judgment of God will be executed. That's what we have been talking about! The Day of the Lord! That time in future history when God will execute His judgment on sinful human beings and this sinful world. **Verse 15** – "'And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren – the whole posterity of Ephraim.'" **Verse 16** – this was a verse in which I referred to in December 2012. I delivered this sermon the same day, or rather the same weekend, as that horrible tragedy in Connecticut. Where these young children just five years of age were just gunned down by this crazy person. And I tried to point out that America, as wonderful as she has been, was destined – by the Word of God – to fall into nothingness. To be destroyed. And when that sermon was over, the "little guy" number two, walked over to me, with as much contempt that he could muster, reeking of self-righteousness, and said, "I'm so sorry that you're so depressed. O' you must be so depressed to deliver that type of sermon." It was dripping with arrogance, hubris. And what did he disagree with!? Because I dared to quote the Word of God!

"'Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.'" – there comes a time in the progression of the downfall of a society or a group or a nation, a time when God says, 'I'm just done with it!' 'I'm done messing with them!' At that point you're wasting your time even praying for them. I mean when Noah was in that huge boat, and the rains fell and the waters rose, do you think Noah was on the top deck praying for the people!? The judgment of God had already been made! Do you think that Lot and his two daughters when they were struggling to get away from the plain of Sodom and Gomorrah, do you really think that God wanted them to turn around and go, "O' these poor people"!? "O' God help them!" His wife, actually had some sort-of empathy for them, disobeyed God and turned around and looked… boom… she was changed into a pillar of stone. There was no praying for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, it was over! God had rendered His judgment and He was

executing it. And so, the people of America, the people who say, 'In God We Trust,' but a society which is so mucked up now, it sometimes will get you in trouble if you even say the name Jesus Christ in public. There's going to come a time when God Almighty and Jesus Christ say, 'I'm just done with it!' 'It's over!' 'Let the end-time trauma begin!' Are we there yet!? No. Are we near!? Probably. Do I know for sure!? No, I don't know the timetable. But when I look around, I just don't see how this world keeps spinning the way it should. **Verse 17** – "'Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? **18**) The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the Queen of Heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.'" – a direct reference to the Day of the Lord! **Verses 19, 20** – "'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place [a direct reference to the Day of the Lord] – on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched.'" – the Day of the Lord is often in connection with fire. Of things just being burned up! **Verses 21-22, 23** – and listen how simple the Plan of God is, "…'Obey My voice, and I will be your God,' …" – that's the one condition God has wanted since the beginning of time! 'Simply obey My voice, I will be your God and you will be My people.' "…'And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.'" – but… so sadly, **Verse 24** – "'Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.'" – they trusted in themselves that they were right. Yet in the end they will be proved to be wrong. **Verses 25-27, 28** – "'So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation …'" – this is a family, this is a church, this is a congregation, this is a state, a county, a town, a village, you pick the organization you want. "…'that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. **29**) Cut off your hair [O' Israel] and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on the desolate heights; …'" – remember Jeremiah wrote the Book of Lamentations!? What is he lamenting!? He's lamenting what will happen on the Day of the Lord! People have never understood that. "…'for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.'" – a reference to the Day of the Lord! **Verse 30** – "'For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight,' says the LORD. 'They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it.'" – even some of the churches which have the name God in it! **Verse 31** – "'And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, …'" – or as you might say Gehenna, this is a direct reference to that valley which was constantly burning Jerusalem's garbage – a rubbish pit. That's where the term Gehenna fire comes from. This is an offhand reference to eternal Gehenna fire. "…'to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, …'" – thankfully we don't do that anymore, but, how many little babies in the year 2018 were slaughtered while they were inside their mother's womb!? And what, pray-tell, could they ever have done wrong!? What sin could they ever have committed!? They are COMPLETELY INNOCENT!! But because they were alive and it was inconvenient for their mother, because she wanted to party more!?

"Worship not the Queen of Heaven!"

People gather for an Easter Sunrise Service

She wanted to worry about her figure, or her career, she just didn't want to be bothered. O' she liked what caused the baby, she just wasn't responsible enough to take care of the baby God allowed her to have. How many thousands and thousands, hundreds of thousands of aborted babies will occur this year! In this country and in many others! **Verse 32** – "'Therefore, behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'when it will no more be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; …'" – Gehenna fire! **Verse 33-34** – "'Then I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For the land shall be desolate.'" – thus saith the LORD!

Ezekiel 8:15 – "Then He said to me, 'Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these.' **16**) So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house; …" – this is a church building. A cathedral. A temple, whatever word you want to use. "…and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the Sun toward the east." – In the old days, in previous civilizations, going back to the Egyptians and the Syrians and Babylonians, their religion was based upon - in one form or another – the worship of the Sun. The Bible says that the SEVENTH DAY of the week is God's holy day, weekly day. It's not a SUN-day. Why do most of the churches of the world choose the FIRST DAY of the week!? Have you ever asked yourself that question!? How, if God gave the Sabbath to be the day upon which people were to convene, worship, and think about God and talk about God, then where did the first day of the week come from!? A lot of you who are keepers of Sunday don't even know where it came from! You're just doing it because your family members before you were doing it. And you just, "Well, we all just go to church on Sunday, that's what we've always done, that's what I'm always going to do!" Where did Sunday come from!? And don't say Jesus Christ instituted it, because He didn't! "Well He was resurrected on Sunday." No, He wasn't! He was resurrected on a late Saturday. "Ah well, the Bible talks about 'the Lord's day'." No, the Book of Revelation talks about – John – was in a vision, was having a vision revealed to him ON THE LORD'S DAY, that was

talking about the DAY OF THE LORD! The Book of Revelation sums up the climatic events of the Day of the Lord! It's not the 'Lord's day,' Sunday worship had nothing to do with it! And anybody who uses that as an excuse to attempt to prove the validity of Sunday worship, it's just a terribly ridiculous infantile argument. Have you ever heard of a guy named Constantine I, he was a Roman Emperor who reigned in the 300s A.D.

He, as the Roman Emperor, one day woke up and said, "You know what!? We're not going to meet on Saturday anymore. We're going to be different than the Jewish people, I'm going to now institute – and demand at the point of death – that everyone keep Sunday." And so, in the 300s A.D., the Roman world started keeping Sunday – that's where it came from! It didn't come from God, it didn't come from Jesus, it didn't come from the apostle Paul. It came from the Roman Emperor Constantine I. And to this day, as the prophecy of Ezekiel reveal, that within church buildings, people – whether they know it or not – are worshiping the Sun. It's S-U-N day. And why do people on Easter, which is not in the Bible – one place it appears in Acts is a mistranslation, and it should be the word Passover – so many people of the Western world get the urge and need to go forth and have Easter Sunrise services!? Where they face the east and watch the rising Sun!? Have you ever wondered about that!? Please, have the intellectual honesty to start doing some research. These things did not come from the Bible. They are the traditions of men. Jesus Christ said, 'Be careful that you don't follow traditions, but rather follow the truth of God!' **Verses 17, 18** – and this is a mission statement of the DAY OF THE LORD! – "'Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.'" – if you wait until the Day of the Lord, you probably have waited too long! If you wait until these horrible catastrophes – horrible things, plagues, droughts, famine, diseases – some horrible things are stated in your Bible! If you wait until that Day, and then go, "O' I wish I would have listened to Him!" You will have waited too long! You have a chance now to still find the truth of God! I beg you, I challenge you, I implore you, I importune you – any word you want to put out there – prove me right or prove me wrong! But don't sit on your rear-end and do nothing!

Ezekiel chapter 9 – Verse 3, 4 – "and the LORD said to him, 'Go through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.'" – the Bible talks about two different groups of people having a mark put upon their head. If you're familiar with the Bible you know that I'm referring to the Book of Revelation.

Now, this is not the only place – **Revelation 13:16** – and notice **verse 11** – "Then I saw another beast …" – and notice what the purpose of these two great powers are **– verse 7** – "It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them …" – this is war against the true people of God. Implemented by these two very false and diabolical leaders. "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb [he looked innocent like a little lamb] and spoke like a dragon. **12**) And he exercises

all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed [talking about the Roman Empire, and then subsequent reinstitutions of the "Holy" Roman Empire; and you come down to the end-days where you have the seventh resurrection of the "Holy" Roman Empire, which is just right around the corner]. **13**) He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire [or lightning] come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men [O' an impressive show, but it means absolutely nothing!]. **14**) And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast [and who will be behind those signs!? Satan the devil!], ... **15**) ... and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed." – that's why they go to make war against the saints. Because the saints don't believe the religion they're trying to peddle. **Verse 16** – "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and [bond; again, this false leader], to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads." – alright, 'a mark'!? **Verse 17** – "and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. **18**) Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666." – and you've probably heard references to that, and even some movies refer to that. Also **Chapter 14, verse 9** – "Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10**) he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God [a reference to the DAY OF THE LORD!] ...'" – once again, this reference to a mark on your right hand and your forehead.

Go back to the **Book of Ezekiel**, you'll find as you study the Bible – and *the Way of God* and *the way of Satan*, and even *the holy days and holidays* – you'll see that Satan often duplicates the TRUE WAY OF GOD!

The Bible says keep SATURDAY. But now you have the majority of the world, the Western world, keeping Sunday. The Bible says keep THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES and people want to keep Christmas. The Bible says keep THE PASSOVER and yet we have this Easter thing. Here, as we saw in the Book of Revelation, that the leaders who are working for Satan the devil have a mark. Sometimes referred to as 'the mark of the beast.' And yet, here back in the Book of Ezekiel, WE HAVE GOD'S VERSION, and what does He say here, **verse 4** – He said with the being with the inkhorn, "'Go through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.' **5**) To the others He said in my hearing, 'Go after him through the city and KILL ...'" – so you either have God's mark, or you have Satan's mark! It's one or the other! Now, some of you might want to say, "Well, I don't want to get involved!" If you don't get involved you guarantee yourself to be a part from God's blessing and protection. The only way you can assure yourself of safety – to preserve your life both physically and spiritually – is to actively pursue the Way of God and the Way of Jesus Christ! If you don't you automatically fall into the mark of Satan. **Verses 6-11** – the DAY OF THE LORD.

The single most prophesied event in the Bible and nothing comes close to it. Not even the establishment of the Kingdom of God, which is a most wonderful future event. The predictions of the establishment of the Kingdom of God are woefully small compared to the predictions of the Day of the Lord. And yet most of the people who study the Bible do not understand the significance of the Day of the Lord.

Ezekiel 12 – notice right off that 'the Word of the LORD came to me [came to Ezekiel], saying: **2**) 'Son of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which has eyes to see but does not see, and ears to hear but does not hear; for they are a rebellious house.'" – now, if you would, turn to the Book of Revelation. In chapters 2 & 3 Jesus Christ gave a Message to seven different church groups, which all existed at the same time. It wasn't 'church era's,' which some people have feloniously and incorrectly taught over the years and some of them STILL DO! And God, Jesus Christ, gave a Message to each of these groups. But what I want to point in on is like the first group in ***Ephesus***. **Verse 7, chapter 2** – "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. …'" – and I contend the only way you're really going to hear what the Spirit of God is saying is IF you have God's Spirit.

If you don't have God's Spirit you'll probably never get this Message. And then, **verse 11** – to another church group, out of ***Smyrna*** – "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. …'" – and to another group out of ***Pergamos***, He says in **verse 17** – "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. …'" – and notice right before then, the word REPENT! And that means change. Repent is not some fancy theological term. Repent means you come to a point in your life where you say, "I have done something that I should not have done!" "I have walked down a path, down which I should not have walked." "I have engaged in practices, thinking, or works, or actions, which are contrary to the mind of God. And I've come to a point where I want to change." Now, as a human being, if you have a lot of will power, you might muster up enough will power to do some things better. But in the end, the only way that you can overcome is to cry out to God, to cry out to Jesus Christ, and say, "Come into my life, forgive me, help me to change, help me to grow, grant me Your Spirit, grant me Your forgiveness and Your eternal grace." Well, to a group in ***Thyatira***, notice there in verse 21 He says, 'to repent.' And, in **verse 29** He says, "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" In **chapter 3** He talks to a group called ***Sardis***. He says in **verse 3** – "'Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and REPENT. …'" – once again, you've got to change. And in **verse 6** – "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" And then to a group in ***Philadelphia***. He says in **verse 13** – "'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" And to the last group in ***Laodicea***. He says, **verse 19** – "'As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and REPENT.'" I've heard people say, "Well God will never enter your life and cause problems for you." Really!? 'As many as I love I rebuke and chasten.' 'Be zealous therefore, and repent.' Change. Change the direction of

your life. Notice **verse 20** – "'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him [or her] and dine with him [or her], and he with Me.'" – TURN TO GOD! TURN TO JESUS CHRIST! **Verse 21** – "'To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **22**) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" - a rather consistent Message from God!

Ezekiel 12, verse 9 – "'Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, 'What are you doing?'" – and **verse 10** speaks of the 'prince in Jerusalem,' and He talks about the house of Israel. Keep in mind, some of you know this - some of you are not aware yet, the Bible talks about the house of Israel a lot and it talks about the Jewish people a lot. Those are not the same thing. All Jewish people are descendants from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel. However, there were twelve brothers, not all twelve brothers were Jewish. Just one brother, Judah. And there are two groups of people out there both of whom God loves and cares about and has spent a lot of time over the years – thousands of years – attempting to guide, lead, and direct. Although not very successfully, because they are, as He says, 'a rebellious house.' **Verse 11** – "Say, 'I am a sign to you. As I have done, so shall it be done to them; they shall be carried away into captivity.'" – talking about the DAY OF THE LORD! This FALL HOLY DAYS SERIES – directly talking about the meaning of the Day of Atonement, which is *prophetically* linked with the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is that moment in time – not yet here, but not far away – where Jesus Christ directly intervenes in the affairs of human kind and He sets things right. He ATONES. He 'balances the books.' He throws away the old and brings forth the new. The Day of the Lord, the single most prophesied event in the Bible – nothing comes close to it. **Verse 14** – this is a prophecy of the Day of the Lord or what will happen. – "'I will scatter to every wind all who are around him to help him and all his troops; and I will draw out the sword after them.'" – a common refrain. **Verse 15** – directly talking about the Day of the Lord! – **Verse 16** – the Day of the Lord! A remnant, as He sometimes says, will live through it all. And they will declare to that present generation and far down the road "We left our God, and we were sorely punished for it!" "And now we know that there is a God, and we know that He is a rewarder of them that do good, He is also a rewarder of them that do evil." **Verse 17** – directly from the mouth of God. **Verse 19** – "'And say to the people of the land, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the LAND OF ISRAEL …'" – both the tribe of Judah and the house of Israel. Verse 20 – "'Then the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall become desolate; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'" – because on the Day of the Lord there will be DIRECT CONTACT with human kind!

Verse 22 – again talking about the Day of the Lord – "'Son of man, what is this proverb that you people have about the land of Israel, which says, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision fails'?'" – you know there are people – sometimes in our society they're political people – historically they have tended to be religious people, and there are some

religious people who follow this philosophy to this day, "O' don't worry, everything's going to be alright!" "Don't worry about God punishing you, He's far away." Well, **Verse 23** – "'Tell them therefore, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'I will lay this proverb to rest, …'" – because there will be a God, there will be a very angry Jesus Christ, and there will be punishment and judgment! **Verse 24** – the stupid simplistic little idealistic sayings that ministers so often say, it won't exist anymore. Yet, this type of empty rhetoric will simply no longer be meaningful. It won't even exist. **Verse 25** – "…'the Word which I speak will come to pass [there comes a time when we simply run out of time!] …'" – there will come a time when God the Father and Jesus Christ say, 'Let it begin!' 'Let the end-time trauma begin!' Now we're not there yet. And there's things going on in this world which is horrible and terrible, but we're not yet to God's end-time days. **Verses 26, 27** – "'Son of man, look, the house of Israel is saying, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.'" – they say, "O' don't worry about that stuff you read in the Bible, that's just Old Testament stuff!" And yet, everything we're covering here is talking about what will soon take place in the future! **Verse 28** – "'Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'None of My Words will be postponed any more, [IT WILL HAPPEN! And it's going to happen not very far down the road!] …'"

Ezekiel 13 – 2) "'Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel [prophesy against the religious leaders of Israel] who prophesy and say to those who prophesy out of their own hearts, 'Hear the Word of the LORD!' **3**) Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit [that follow their own mind, that follow their own traditions] and have seen nothing!'" – religious leaders which do not speak the truth of God! Now, it's not my job to point out who's speaking the truth and who isn't. But it's YOUR JOB to make sure that you're not stuck in one of those institutions in which your religious leaders are not telling you the truth. Be careful what you believe. Don't just except it, because it's family tradition. Don't just except it because your wife or your husband said, "Well this is where we're going to go to church." "This is what we're going to believe."

I challenge you to go to God in prayer, ask for His help, and then study your Bible with meaning and with purpose. Read the things I have said. Tell me if I have misquoted them! Tell me if I have misrepresented what God is saying! Show me! But if you cannot disprove what I am saying, then it becomes imperative to you that you start to study your Bible with a new way of thinking. Being led by God, not by human beings. **Verse 4** – "'O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. **5**) You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle ON THE DAY OF THE LORD.'" – they have not protected Israel – the house of Israel – I'm talking about America, the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand – that's to whom I speak now. Now many might say, "Where do you get this 'Day of the Lord' stuff!?" Well, because every-so-often even in the Bible it says it just as plain as day. This is all been talking about the Day of the Lord! Which is prophetically linked with the holy day celebration the Day

of Atonement. Again, these are things which have never been said to you before. You've never heard them before, because they haven't been said, because they haven't been known, because they haven't been understood. And graciously God is allowing us, now, here, to start to understand these things!

Mankind's Rulership Will Fall

Now I've been talking about the meaning – as we can find that meaning in the Word of God – of the so-called Day of Atonement, one of the fall holy days. And I have long attempted to teach and share that the Day of Atonement – prophetically – is linked with the concept in the Bible of the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is that moment in time – not too far down the road – in which Jesus Christ and God the Father confront the world of humanity and all of its horrible institutions. Its false governments, its false religions, its false philosophies, its false mores, its false ways of dealing with the way things happen on this Earth. And indeed, God the Father and Jesus Christ are going to change this world, because Jesus Christ is going to return at the blowing of the SEVENTH TRUMP, and He is going to go about the process of changing this world and making it right. And setting up on the Earth the Kingdom of God, or you could call it the Family of God. Ruled by, again, God the Father and Jesus Christ, and the newly resurrected members of the Kingdom of God. And hopefully people like you and me will be a part of that squad, that legion of resurrected members of the Body of Christ. Who have an opportunity to be a part of that foundation - of that great government.

The single most prophesied event in the Bible – and nothing comes close to it – is the concept of the Day of the Lord, or the ultimate meaning of the Day of Atonement.

Ezekiel 13:6 – "'They have envisioned futility [worthlessness] and false divination [saying something is 'holy' or 'this is what you're supposed to do,' or 'this is the way the religion should be' when in fact it's just falsehood, false teaching], saying, 'Thus says the LORD!' But the LORD has not sent them; …'" – they say they represent God, but they don't! They dress in funny uniforms, making believe that they're special to God, but they aren't. Now, how do you know whether someone is a true prophet or a false prophet!? As Jesus said, in a couple of places in the "gospel" accounts, 'you will know them by their fruit.' And He was directly talking about false prophets. And so one of the fruits you – who hopefully are concerned about the future and the prospects of being protected from the end-time horrors which will indeed come upon this Earth. You who are hopefully concerned about your status in eternity – will you be a part of eternal life, or will you have missed out!? What's gonna be your end story!? If your still alive it's not written yet. But do understand, you need to make decisions based upon the Word of God. Not just what some people say. And the fruit, 'you will know them by their fruit,' could easily be said to mean, 'are they teaching from the Bible, and only from the Bible!?' 'and are they properly understanding It and properly relaying It!?' Or, are they just using the Bible like spiritual salt n' pepper!? Every so often just sprinkle on a message to make you people think, 'O' they're talking from God!' You really need to study that and think about that. And you need to prove it one way or the other. Either they are talking about

the Truth of God, or they are not. And how do you find out!? You go to the Book – the Bible. And you read, and you study, and you compare, and you take notes. "…'yet they hope that the Word may be confirmed.'" – O' a lot of you hope that what your ministers, and priests, and rabbis, and imams, and all the other different titles - you hope, you presume, that those people are telling you the truth. But isn't it logical they can't all be telling the truth!? They all have a different message, they can't all be right. And it's possible that none of them are correct! The only place you can go to make sure, is for you to open up your Bible and to read and to study. **Verse 7** – "'Have you not seen a futile vision [a worthless idea, a worthless thought, a worthless philosophy], and have you not spoken false divination? [false prophecy, false teaching] You say, 'The LORD says,' but I have not spoken.'" **Verse 8** – "…'therefore I am indeed against you,' says the Lord God." – who is He against!? The house of Israel. Our cousins across the world – of the Western world.

President Bush, standing with firefighter Bob Beckwith, addressing rescue workers at Ground Zero in New York, September 14, 2001

Verse 9 – "'My hand will be against the prophets [meaning 'I'm going to rip them out of their places someday and cause them to die!'] … they shall not be in the assembly of My people …'" – someday. O' they are right now. But someday they will be removed. "…' nor be written in the record of the house of Israel, …'" – they will be forgotten, as the false ministers and false prophets they are. "…'nor shall they enter into the land of Israel [a reference to eternal life in the Kingdom of God!] …'" – now it's hands off right now, but somewhere down the road. **Verse 10** – "'Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, …'" listen to that. 'seduced them.' God, here, was not speaking of physical sex. He was talking about false religion. Because in the mind of God, false religion is adultery against Him. It is fornication against Him. It is a whoring after false gods instead of following Him. "…'saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace …'" – and I think about: for two terms George W. Bush was our president. He was our president when our buildings of New York and Washington, D.C. were attacked by, basically, cruise-missiles made out of airplanes. And thousands of people died, some of them died such horrible deaths. And in the days following it – I don't know who it was, I don't know who the advisor was, I don't know who the committee was – but they convinced President Bush that we could not cast an aspersion against Islam. And so you heard him in that aftermath coming out and saying, "O' we can't blame Islam. Islam is a religion of peace." Yeah, 'saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace …'" Islam doesn't mean peace, it means – in their ideas – submitting to God and making sure everyone else does, whether they want to or not – and if they won't, the solution is simple, kill 'em! And so the followers of this extreme Islam have no compunction about murdering human beings – totally innocent people - in every imaginable fashion. Whether they cut their heads off with a knife or a sword or shoot them or burn them to death or poison them or push them off roofs or crucify them, the more gruesome the seemingly more acceptable in their demented mind.

Mankind's Rulership Will Fall

"…' – and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untampered mortar - …'" – so, they built a wall, but they didn't use the proper building materials. They didn't use the proper cement. Now, many of you have seen walls, and you might have seen them around your own house, sometimes part of a foundation or part of a retaining wall, where the wall was not constructed properly. And with time, the blocks within that wall began to work apart. And once that happened and rain water gets in there and freezing temperatures, and the thawing – the powerful action of freezing water – it's just a matter of time before that wall falls apart. **Verse 11** – "'say to those who plaster it with untampered mortar, THAT IT WILL FALL.'" – your wall, your project, your philosophy, your religion, your church someday will fall!! "…There will be flooding rain, and you, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall tear it down.'" – and interesting, in the end-time – as we see often in the pages of the Book of Revelation – there will be 'great hailstones and stormy winds,' fire and warfare!! And these institutions – made out of bad building materials – will indeed fall. **Verse 12** – "'Surely, when the wall has fallen, …'" – when all of these false religions and false philosophies and false governments – "…'will it not be said to you, 'Where is the mortar with which you plastered it?'" – what good did it do for you to use your mortar, but you did not use the mortar of God's Word and God's Spirit and God's will. **Verses 13-14** – "…its foundation will be uncovered; …'" – someday, there will be people who will say – as they study back in history about these different institutions – "Look what the foundation really was." It wasn't God, even though they claimed it was. It wasn't the Word of God, even though they loved to use the Word of God to sort-of sprinkle it on their sermons. And all of the falsehood and all of the wreckage and all of the problems will be discovered. "…'it will fall, and you shall be consumed in the midst of it. Then you shall know that I am the [Eternal].'" – again, these are prophecies about the Day of the Lord.

Verse 15 – "'Thus will I accomplish My wrath [upon these false institutions] on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar [improper thinking, false doctrine, false philosophies]; and I will say to you, 'The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it, …'" – the false prophets. The Word of God says that coming around the corner – somewhere down the road – the false religions of mankind will be destroyed, and the people who taught and propagated that false religion will also be destroyed. **Verse 16** – "'that is, the prophets of ISRAEL who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,' says the Lord GOD." – I hate to get too political, but during the 2015 final State of the Union from President Barack Obama – and in the midst of all the crisis which was taking place - most of which sat around Islamic terrorism – he got up and said, "Well the state of our nation is very secure. No problems. Nothing to worry about!" 'Peace, peace, when there is no peace.' **Verse 17** – "'Likewise, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them.'" – He says not just the men folk, there are some women who are

propagators of false religion. Some of them you can find on television. Some of them you can see walking down your streets in your home town. **Verse 18** – "'and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height *to hunt souls*! …'" – they come up with their special little uniform – isn't it interesting that so many religions of the world are identified as participants of that religion by abnormal, strange, unusual, clothing styles and habits!? Instead of just appearing with a coat and tie and shirt, so many of these fellows have to have robes and funny little hats – sometimes the robes look more like dresses than anything. And so with the women folk, they've got to come up with their odd little uniforms to designate, "Yes, I am a holy person." And what does He say!? 'Just to hunt souls!' Like Jesus said in Matthew 23 concerning the Pharisees, He said, 'You'll encompass sea and land and go far just to make one proselyte.' 'And when you do, you make him or her twofold more a child of Gehenna fire!' They hunt souls! And you can turn on the television, many times, and hear the hunters of the religious souls of many people. And yet, are they teaching the Truth of God, or are they teaching a religion of human traditions!? "…'Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive?'" – He's saying there, 'you human beings, with your human philosophies, and human false religions, are you going to be able to save your people!?' 'You won't be able to save your own life let alone the lives of your followers!' And with that in mind, where is the only place you can go - let's ask a question: If indeed, that what I am suggesting, from the Word of God, that somewhere down the road this world ends up in the worst shape that it's ever been in, horrors the like the world has ever seen, how did Jesus say it – 'For then there will be great tribulation [terrible problems], such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.'" – 'And unless those days were shortened [by His intervention], no [human] flesh would be saved [alive] …'" – that mankind would eradicate itself from the pages of history off the face of the Earth! But He says, 'but for the elect's sake [and He's referring to the *physical* people of Israel] those days will be shortened.' So, if what Jesus Christ said be true, and what so many of the prophets of God also said - the "major" prophets, the "minor" prophets - the writers of the New Testament, over and over and over again, the Day of the Lord – the day of His great wrath upon the Earth is mentioned. The single most prophesied event in the Bible – and nothing comes close to it – is the concept of the Day of the Lord. If this event is to come to pass is there a way to escape it!? Is there a way to escape the death, and the horror, and the disease, and the famine and the warfare that the Word of God promises!? And I'm saying to you, that from the pages of the Bible, YES! There is a way of escape. And that involves getting down on your knees, going to God in prayer, begging Jesus Christ to open your mind to the Words of the Bible, to receive the Truth of God and to ask for His blessing and His protection, to ask for His Spirit and to ask for His angels to be placed about you and your family member's. If you do that, and forget about what your family religion might have been, if you show your complete allegiance to JESUS CHRIST and to the Word of God,

as opposed to worrying about what your relatives might think of you. If you do this the Word of God promises you that there is a way to escape these soon to occur events of such horrific nature.

But as He says to the people dressed up in their fake little religious regalia's, 'are you gonna be able to save 'em!?' The answers obvious, no. And the truth be, they won't be able to save themselves. **Verse 19** – "'And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?'" – and He's talking about religious lies. Just because a so-called "holy" person gets up and speaks does not mean that he or she is speaking the truth. THIS IS WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU HERE! You must develop ears to hear, eyes to see! You must be able to discern right from wrong, false from truth. And the only way that you can do that is to shed yourself from your past and to go to the Word of God, and ask that God and Jesus Christ teach you from Their Word, through Their Spirit, and Their guidance the Truth of God! **Verse 20** – "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I am against your magic [bands; ceremonial tricks; silly little religious clothing; 'I'm against you trying to set yourself out as being holy as you walk into a crowd] charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds.'" – God is going to protect some of you! Some of you who are reading these words right now. **Verse 21** – "'I will also tear off your veils [your clothing] and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.'" – and they will know at the end that they are being punished by the great God Almighty! **Verse 22** – "'Because with lies …'" – here in the Word of God, God is saying through Ezekiel, that not all religions are true. If the truth be known, He's saying that most religions are not correct! There is a minority – just a remnant. You must find out what is truthful and what is not truthful. You must help save yourselves, because if you don't, there won't be any protection in the end-time. "…with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.'" – O' a lot of people are promised good things. We were told by the former president that Islam is a religion of peace. But it's totally incorrect what he said. Islam in the hands of the modern fanatics is not a peaceful religion. It is a religion of hatred and extreme segregation. And it's sad, even with people who should know better, they just fall into these lies trying to tell people what is true when it's not.

The people who are wearing the garb, the uniform of false religion, and He says, 'You promised these people life, and yet, through false religion, you will not attain eternal life.' Eternal life comes from obedience to and towards the life and the principles of Jesus Christ. And your reward, if you do repent and are baptized and receive the gift of God's Spirit, and have your name written in the Book of Life – and if you do that in the here-and-the-now while you still can – your reward is to be resurrected and made an eternal part of the Family of God, the Kingdom of God, upon the blowing of the seventh trump. Which is not that far down the road I do believe. **Verse 23** – "'Therefore you shall no longer envision futility [worthlessness] nor practice divination [little tricks; religious tricks]; for I will deliver My people out of your hands, and [then as your being destroyed] you shall know that I am the LORD.'" Now, some people would say, "You mean, God would destroy religion!?" If it's false religion, yes, He will! – **Revelation chapter 1, verse 10** – John said, "I was in the Spirit [being led by the Spirit looking to, towards, the Day of the Lord] …" And eventually **chapter 18** - here in a very short passage, God, Jesus Christ, through Their

prophet John, describe what They're going to do to FALSE RELIGION upon the return of Jesus Christ at the time of the Day of the Lord. He says, "'Babylon the great,' **verse 2**, 'is fallen, is fallen.' This house of mysteries. This house of religious lies will be destroyed. I think it has multiple meanings. Many of the religious doctrines and practices of the modern Western world can be traced back to ancient Babylon and their pagan services. That's one implication of Babylon. I personally suspect that it's also implying the ancient Babylon, which we might call TODAY *the Islamic caliphate* and the more modern Babylon – which Biblical prophecy talks about it – a ten-member nation combine in the heartland of Europe. So, many people have questioned over the years, going back to the prophecies of Daniel 11, the king of the North and the king of the South. Now, I'm rather confident that the king of the North, mentioned in Daniel 11, is this European combine of nations. And, I'm pretty confident that the king of the South – again, it's not just one nation, it's a confederacy of nations – are throughout the Arab and Islamic world, throughout North Africa, into the Middle East, and even beyond. The question has been raised: Who will be the leader of the king of the South!? What will be the leading nation of the king of the South!? And I know many of the descendants of the Worldwide Church of God, over the last decade or so, had been betting (if they were in this allegory) on the idea that Iran will be the king of the South.

Now, keep in mind, Iran is not an Arab country. It is ancient Persia. And I know they are exerting a tremendous amount of influence on the Islamic world at the present time, however, the home of the ancient caliphate for hundreds of years was in BAGDAD – which is what we would now call Babylon. And it makes one wonder if IRAQ – modern day Iraq – will not someday be the home of the king of the South – the headquarters.

Daniel 11 spends a tremendous amount of time about this ongoing battle and pressure going back and forth between the king of the North and the king of the South. And the king of the South in **verse 10** is, sort-of, a definition. It says – "However his sons [meaning, the sons of the king of the South] shall stir up strife, and assemble a multitude of great forces; …" – and this becomes sort-of like a confederation of nations, or, as they will say in the future, *a caliphate*. And that's what the Arab's call when they become united with one purpose and one goal under one leader. And, this basically will be what the king of the South will be. A collection of Arab and Islamic nations, throughout North Africa, into the Middle East, and even beyond. Which will combine in opposition of the king of the North. The king of the North will be, I believe, a combination, a conglomeration, of nations from central Europe. And most likely led by the nation of Germany.

It 'has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit [referring to demons], and a cage for every unclean and hated bird [again referring to demons]! **3**) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication [false doctrine], the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her [they snuggled up and tried to like 'we're good buddies with them.'], and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.'" – remember the merchants who say, if they don't have a good Christmas season they will go out

of business!? And Easter – Easter is originally the celebration of Ishtar (an ancient Mesopotamian goddess of fertility), that's not in the Bible! The Bible talks about Passover and Unleavened Bread, and yet, the religions of this world, the churches of this world, especially of the Western world, they teach Easter. And think about all the money that is made. Now, what do bunny rabbits and eggs have to do with Jesus Christ!? Absolutely nothing! But rather, bunny rabbits and eggs are symbols of fertility. And so Ishtar was a Spring fertility right. And yet, somehow, that has become part of modern religion! And St. Valentines, and Halloween – all of these are church related holidays. And they have nothing to do with Jesus Christ, or the Word of God or the Plan of God! Yes, indeed, the merchants of the earth have become rich through these practices! So, this **chapter 18**, describes, from the mind of Jesus Christ, how that the ancient religion – which originated in Babylon, and then got transferred into Europe – will be destroyed.

Verse 4 – "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, My people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'" – 'her plagues!' this church institution, and related institutions. **5**) "For her sins have reached to Heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities [or rather, God will remember her iniquities]. **6**) Render to her just as she rendered to you, [again, the annunciated principle throughout the pages of the Bible that in the end you're going to get exactly what you deserve from the hand of a very righteous Judge, except for those who have had your sins forgiven, because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ] and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. **7**) In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' **8**) Therefore her plagues will come in one day [a very short period of time] – death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, …'" – fire is often mentioned in relationship to the punishments of the Day of the Lord! **Verse 9** – "'The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, **10**) standing at a distance, for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, [the site of the false religion] that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' **11**) 'And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, …'" - the merchants of the earth have benefited from these so-called "holy" days - *holidays* … **20**) 'Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!'" – because these false religions have caused the death of many of God's true servants!

Yes, indeed, there's a whole chapter committed to God and Jesus Christ describing how a whole system of false religion will be utterly and completely and totally destroyed, as the Day of the Lord comes to its conclusion! Everything false will be destroyed!

Ezekiel 14 – Verses 1-4 – "…'Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitudes of his idols." – So, you hear this idea of "according." This concept, you will be rewarded according to your works. You will receive in the end exactly what you deserve. This is a theme which goes from the beginning part of the Bible all the way to the end of the Book of Revelation. **Verse 5** – "'that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.'" – now the house of Israel, in prophecy, is referring to the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh – namely Manasseh the United States *of* America, Ephraim meaning Britain, Canada, Australia, New

Zealand, and parts of South Africa. This is talking about things which are going to happen in the future. And, He says, 'you all – the house of Israel – is estranged from Me because of your pursuing idols.' Now, what type of idols do we have in this country!? We have idols everywhere you look! We have people who idolize politicians – and why you would idolize a politician is far beyond me. And yet, like one commentator, on one cable network, when he heard President Obama speak, talked about having a thrill run up his leg. Now, that's bizarre! We have movie stars, television stars, recording stars, and people tend to idolize these people. And also multiple stories about young women who literally throw themselves at the feet of some of these young men hoping to have a "shared time together." Well, think about cars. People tend to idolize their car – not all the people. Some people make an idol of their job or career. And they will do literally anything to promote their career, or to advance themselves on their job.

And what truly sickens me, there are people within the framework of the Worldwide Church of God, and its descendants, who idolize human leaders. And there were people – and even today – that just hang on every word that Herbert Armstrong once said. There are people who hang on every word that Ted Armstrong maybe once said. And there are people who seemingly get their marching orders from Herbert's grandson and Ted's son – and I thoroughly do not understand that!? So, there are a whole multitude of idols in this country! **Verse 6** – "'Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'REPENT, …'" – this is one of the main Messages of the Bible! You can't change your past – Jesus Christ can! But if you've done something wrong a year ago, the most that you could hope for is that people don't find out. But you can't change it. However, if you go to God Almighty and Jesus Christ and beg Their forgiveness and ask for help to change, that will be forgiven you and it will be literally erased from your record – through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And then you can go to that great throne of mercy and grace and ask for some help. "Help me to overcome this problem." "Help me not to repeat it." And if you do fall down again, go back and repent. Ask for forgiveness. Repentance, all that means is wanting to change. And I guess it's like the person who's – during the course of their life – has become addicted to their favorite alcohol beverage. I don't think many of them can just quit – *boom* – and never have another drink. But I think there are people who see the deleterious effects of drinking, in their life and of their loved ones, and they decide, "I'm going to stop this!" And maybe the first time they go four weeks before they sort-of slide back. But if they will go to God and ask forgiveness and ask for help, maybe next time it will be a year before they have a little break down!? And then maybe next time it's five years, then eventually, by thinking about the problem, praying about the problem, asking God's help, and by being careful what you do. If you've had a drinking problem in your life, I suggest that you do not go to a bar. Going to where you are tempted is the last place you want to go, or a nightclub or something like that. "…'and turn away from your idols, …'" – walk away from them! Get away from them! "…'and turn your faces away from all your abominations.'" – and that's all repentance means. Change. Turn away from. **Verses 7-8**, and the answer, **Verse 9** – "'And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the LORD have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel.'"

Mankind's Rulership Will Fall

God does not look kindly upon so-called religious people – ministers, priests, rabbis, whatever you want to call them – that lead His people astray. Now, He's disappointed that the people allow themselves to be led astray, but where His anger is truly focused, is at the individual who did the leading away. There are a great many who mislead the people who are looking to them for guidance. So, not only are the people mislead, and face destruction, the people who do the misleading face a terrible fate. **Verse 10** – "'And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired.'" – if you are a false prophet, and are misleading people, unless you REPENT and change, you have a very heavy price to pay. **Verses 11-12, 13** – "'Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it.'" – that prophecy of a future famine is a part of the end-time trauma, and the Day of the Lord! Even though you don't see the phrase "Day of the Lord" in every paragraph, this is what He's talking about! And it is what He's been talking about in the Book of Ezekiel from the beginning. And then, here's a very interesting statement – **Verse 14** – "'Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, …'" – who all have high recommendations from God, written in the Bible. So, these are "Biblical heavyweights." "…'were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,' says the Lord GOD." – if Daniel were alive today, he might very well pray for our people, but in the end, Daniel can't save them, and Daniel's prayers can't save them. And what does it say!? **Verse 15** – "'If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, …'" – now, is He's speaking of an invasion of tiger's and lion's!? Probably not. Could He be speaking of an invasion of locusts!? O' yeah! Or, other types of insects which can just strip a whole area clean. Or, what if He's talking about viruses!? Viruses are little microorganisms which are, sort-of, halfway, animals!? And you know what viruses can do! We know about the AIDS epidemic, we've heard recently about Ebola, we've heard about Measles – there's a lot of diseases – Polio, diseases which are spread by viruses.

a hundred million LOCUSTS!

Verse 16 – "'[E]ven though these three men were in it, as I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate.'" – and I know parents who are in the Church who think about their children and love their children, and care for their children, and probably pray for their children continually. But at some point, down the road, it's literally every man and woman for themselves, being if you're with God, God will protect you! If you have not submitted your life to God, according to this passage, there's not much else you can do about it. You can pray for your son or your daughter now that they receive the truth of God, that they hear the truth of God, that their minds and eyes would be opened, their ears would be opened. And I would thoroughly encourage you to do so, but at some point, those other individuals will have to answer for themselves, and you will answer for yourself. And if you are true to the Word of God and look to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ and the promises of the New Covenant, you're probably going to be in real good shape!? **Verse 17** – "'Or if I bring a sword

on that land, …'" – think warfare. "…'and say, 'Sword, go through the land,' and I cut off man and beast from it, **18**) even though these three men [these Biblical patriarchs] were in it, as I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered. **19**) Or if I send a pestilence [meaning, diseases] …'" Now, Verse 21 – "For thus says the Lord GOD: 'How much more it shall be when I send MY FOUR SEVERE JUDGMENTS ON JERUSALEM …'" – 'Four Sore Judgments!' Jesus Christ talked about these FOUR same issues back in **Matthew 24**, **Luke 21**, **Mark 13**. "…'the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence – to cut off man and beast from it?'" – and for those who are loyal to God, **Verse 22** – "'Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; …'" **Verse 23** – Most powerful indictment! It says in the Day of the Lord many people will suffer. It also says at the end here, 'some people' will live through this horrible occasion.

Again, the Day of Atonement – meaning the Day of the Lord – prophetically they are linked. And the Day of the Lord is that moment in future history, not far down the road, when the returning Jesus Christ, will directly pass judgment upon this earth. And it is a horribly bloody day – or point in time.

Ezekiel 15 – Verses 1-5 – this reference to fire. The Day of the Lord has a lot of references to fire. A lot of things are going to be destroyed. And, a lot of it will be destroyed by fire. These verses are a direct reference to the Day of the Lord, and the fate of our people and the fate of many of the people of the British Empire – the United Kingdom now – Australia, New Zealand, Canada, parts of South Africa. And we are facing a judgment day! A day of terrible national crisis. **Verse 6** – "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem.'" – so many times throughout the prophecies of the Bible what He says about Jerusalem is what He also means about Israel. Because we are prophetically linked, we are brothers. **Verses 7, 8** – "'Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have persisted in unfaithfulness,' says the Lord GOD.'" – we live in a country now – in America – where many Christians feel as though they are being beset upon. Their given a hard time. If you profess to be gay or Muslim, you probably receive benefits from the American government!? But people who are strong advocates of Jesus Christ are increasingly given a hard time. We're living in a country that apparently is on the verge – from the very top level – of being against Israel. And that's just one step away from just turning hatred against all Jewish people! I think this is a terrible time to be Jewish in America! The specter of Iran and the past president greasing the path to make that happen, the attitude, the hatred, the antipathy, the disdain that the White House had shown to Israel has bled over into liberal circles to a certain amount of Anti-Semitism. This has happened in our country and in Europe! Remember, all this took place before World War II. And, as the world turns against Israel and the Jewish people, we too will usher in a third world war! And that's what some of this is talking about right here!

Ezekiel 16 – this is a chapter to which I have referred many times over the years. It describes God's view of our people! Of our founding people! To both Jerusalem – the Jewish people – and also the fate of Israel. The prophetic people of Israel. The physical people of Israel, in which we in America, to a large part are. They are closely linked. **Verse 1** – "Again the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, **2**) 'Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, …'" – now, how does God make you know your sins!?

Mankind's Rulership Will Fall

Satan the devil's "high priestess" Hillary Clinton tried to quicken Americas destruction!

Sometimes He allows a lot of troubles to come down your path. And, maybe then, in a time of quiet, in a time of reflecting upon all that has happened, sometimes we get a chance to get our minds right. I remember a movie many years ago, Cool Hand Luke. It had this little whiny, twerp, commandant of the prison camp, who had a nasal voice, and he was fond of saying to the prisoners, "What we have here is a failure to communicate." And, Paul Newman, as Cool Hand Luke, was always on the receiving end of this warden being a task master. And, Paul Newman had a chance to think about his sins over his life. And sometimes when you do face a big roadblock, maybe you're sick and your laid up and out of a job, maybe all you have to do is sit around and read the Bible and pray. Maybe sort-of get your mind right. The warden would also say to Luke, "Luke, you've got to get your mind right!" And Luke never did get his mind right, according to the wishes and desires of the warden. And, we as a country, seemingly, are determined not to get our mind's right. But sometimes, on an individual level, you get laid up one way or the other, you have a chance to think. "What is going on!? Is God trying to tell me something!" "Have maybe I upset God!? Have I disappointed Him!?" And maybe in that time of reflection, maybe you will get your mind right. **Verse 3** – "'and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: 'Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan: your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. **4**) As for your nativity [your birth, your beginning], on the day you were born your naval cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths.'" – He's basically just saying that when you were born you were a ragged, unkept, unhealthy, little baby which no one cared for. **Verse 5** – "'No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born.'" – your neighbors wanted nothing to do with you. **Verse 6** – now this is a bit of an allegory. He's telling a story, He's trying to convey some teaching points through the story. **Verses 6-7, 8** – "'When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; …'" – meaning it was this young – in this allegory; this young nation, this young girl – was growing up and becoming a mature woman. "…'Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,' says the Lord GOD." – now, you can read in Exodus 19 the idea that the Israeli people were married to God!

Exodus 19 – now keep in mind. There's a confusion in our country and in our culture, that when God says "Israel" He's talking about the Jewish people. No, the Jewish people – Judah was one son out of twelve. I know when you see that classic American movie The Ten Commandments, there's always the thought that they're talking about the Jewish people. No, the Jewish people were just one part of a much larger group of people called the people of Israel. **Verse 4** – "'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.'" – now again, God often speaking in very allegorical language. Did the people of Israel, did they fly out of Egypt!? No, they walked. And it's interesting, there's a verse back in the Book of Revelation, how God says He will bare you up on eagles' wings. And, some of the leading ministers of the Worldwide Church of God, back in the 1960s, used that verse as proof that the church would get on a bunch of airplanes and fly over to Petra. Well, in the original 'I bore you on eagles' wings' - how did they get out of Egypt!? – they walked. **Verse 5** – "'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special people; for all the earth is Mine.'" – there's a very special place in God's heart for the people of Israel (Judah), and the people of Israel. A very special place. And we had an American president that went against the will of God! By turning his back on Israel and currying favor – playing footsy – with the horrible terrorist state of Iran! 'you shall be a special people to Me!' He doesn't say that about Persia, but He does say it about the people of Israel, and about the Jewish people, which are a part of the house of Israel. **Verse 6** – "'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'" – recall **Revelation chapter 5, verse 10** – talking about the future – "'And [He will make] us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'" – now that verse right there must trouble Protestants and Catholics big time, because both groups of people teach that, "Well, you go off to Heaven!" No, the people who are resurrected into the Family of God, "we shall become kings and priests and we shall reign on the EARTH!"

Verse 6-7, 8 Exodus 19 – "Then all the people answered together and said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do.' So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD." – that, in effect, was a marriage contract. God Almighty said of Israel, 'I will take you into a special people.' And the people of Israel responded and said, 'We will have You!'

They entered into a marriage contract. And, that's what it says here in **Ezekiel chapter 16**, the last part of **verse 8** – "…'Yes, I swore an oath to you, and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,' …" – God wanted to be in a marriage relationship with the people of Israel. That's what He wanted. Well, the people of Israel, it didn't take them long before they didn't want that. They wanted something else. And, we've had a lot of troubles in our people's and our past because of that. But keep in mind – a lot of people think that the Old Testament says one thing and the New Testament says another. But what we find out, that a lot of the things we read in the Old Testament. come right back to life in the New Testament! In the Book of **Revelation, chapter 19** – which talks about the wedding supper of the Lamb. Beginning with **verse 7** – "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." – in the original telling of this story, God wanted to marry the physical people of Israel. The physical people of Israel turned their back on God, and as it were, left Him, and He officially divorced them. But in the coming years – not too far down the road, and the blowing of the SEVENTH TRUMP – Jesus Christ is going to marry – again, Jesus Christ is the One speaking back in Ezekiel, He just had a different name – New Israel, with resurrected Israel,

with the resurrected saints. And God looks upon them again as His chosen people. **Verse 8** – "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. **9**) Then he said to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" – now, going back to Ezekiel.

Verses 9-12 – He treated her like a princess. And, again, this is allegory. This is poetic language. **Verses 13-14, 15** – "'BUT you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it.'" – He was saying, 'you left Me for other gods and other ideas and other things.

Verses 16-19 – 'Everything I gave you,' God says, 'you gave away!' 'Playing footsy with your lovers!' **Verse 20** – "'Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter.'" – and here in America, and I think since the establishment of Roe vs. Wade, over 60 MILLION Americans have died before they ever had a chance to take a breath! You think we haven't sacrificed our sons and daughters!? And women, have sacrificed their sons and their daughters, because it was more convenient to live life without a baby – easier to have it aborted. And I say this, if you don't want to be encumbered with a child then don't play the grown-up games which causes a child to be born. That's pretty simple, isn't it!? You don't play the motel, bedroom, back of the car, games - and expect not to have a baby! The two go together, you should know that! But no, we have a whole generation or two of women who say, "I wanna play – I want my cake and I want to eat it to!" So, millions and millions of potential Americans have been destroyed, because of selfishness. And those babies – some of which would have been called into the Church of God, the Church of Jesus Christ and become resurrected members of the Family of God upon His return! And I still think, they're going to have to wait – over a thousand years – but those young babies will yet live again in the "Great White Throne Judgment." **Verse 22** – "'And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood.'" – you forgot who saved your hide! And we in America are coming close to forgetting who saved our hide over and over and over again. Our great God! Our money says "In God We Trust" but that's just symbolic anymore. It wouldn't surprise me if a certain brand of political thought would someday move to have that removed from our money. **Verse 23** – "'Then it was so, after all your wickedness – 'Woe, woe to you!' says the Lord GOD – **24**) that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street.'" – He's talking about, I think, citadel's of worship.

Verse 25 – "'You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry.'" – we have gone after false gods, and now in America, you still would probably get more breaks

from this present government if you were to declare that you were a Muslim, rather than a Christian or a Jew. Things are truly upside down! **Verse 26, 27** – "Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, …'" – think Palestinians. **Verse 28** – "'You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, …'" – think Germany. **Verses 29-30, 31** – "'You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street. …'" – edifices to false religions! Edifices to religions which truly do not reflect the will of the Holy Bible! Edifices of worship which do not follow the truth of God! **Verse 32** – "'You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband. **33**) Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, …'" – now, keep in mind what George Washington said, as he gave his last address to the nation. He said, "Avoid entangling alliances with foreign countries." That was the advice of George Washington. Well, even now, we seemingly go out of our way to give money to everyone. Foreign countries. And God is saying, 'You're giving away the money I gave you!' We have people that say, "O' we have people who are starving in America!" "We have people who don't have proper medical care in America!" Well why don't we keep our money and take care of our American people!? Instead of giving it away to people who in the end turn right back around and want to destroy us!? In this analogy here – 'the John's are not paying the whore. The whore is paying her John's, her customers.' Even that is backwards, in this particular analogy. Now, I know of certain church organizations, under the umbrella of the descendancy of the Worldwide Church of God, whose leaders have determined that they can control their ministers by giving them a very nice salary or stipend. And they do so with the hope that this dependency upon the source of money will keep their ministers loyal to them. Even when they do some very dastardly things. A lot of people who were ministers in the Worldwide Church of God - long after it rejected most of the tenets of the Truth of God – stayed with that organization because that organization continued to pay them a very nice salary and provide for them a house, a car, and living expenses. Those ministers back there did pretty well, financially.

Now, some of them who knew the Word of God, and had preached it for years, when the group in Pasadena announced that they were changing doctrine, they just went along with it. Because, well, they had a wife, and children, and had a mortgage, and they had to pay for college for their children, and get a retirement fund set up. They couldn't just walk away! Had they walked away, I believe God would have blessed them, for their loyalty to Him. And even now, there is a certain organization, from which I know from short personal experience, which pays some of its supporters – and they don't publicize this very much – in order to keep them loyal. And so whatever the little leader says – he snaps his fingers – he expects everybody just to bow and say, "O' yes, O yes!" The same types of stuff God condemns here in the Bible!

The Books will finally be balanced

Ezekiel 16, Verse 34, 35 – "'Now then, O harlot, hear the Word of the LORD!'" – this is God speaking to modern day Israel and modern-day America and the British Commonwealth, the nations from which the once British Commonwealth was formed. **Verses 36-37, 38** – "'And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy.'" – that's a DIRECT THREAT AGAINST OUR PEOPLE! **Verse 39** – "'I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. … **40**) They shall also bring up an assembly against you, …'" – that's an army – armed forces. "…'and they shall stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords.'" – that's military defeat. He's saying, 'you will be ravaged, killed, raped, plundered!' And this is part of your punishment – and this is a part of the DAY OF THE LORD! Which is prophetically linked with the Day of Atonement. **Verse 41** – "'They shall burn your houses with fire, …'" – again, any discussion with the Day of the Lord often involves images of fire and things being burned down and destroyed. **Verses 41, 42** – "'So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, …'" – so, eventually it comes to an end. And that's the beginning of the Millennium. "…'and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more.'" – that's the Millennium again. **Verse 43** – "'Because you did not remember the days of your youth, …'" – remember, America was founded on Judean-Christian principles. And it's very easy to go back to the writings of our founding fathers and to see where they saw our government outlined in the pages of the Bible. And yet now, we're turning against our Christian roots. And we're embracing everything that God says, 'I do not want you to do.' "…'with all these things, surely I will also recompense your deeds on your own head, …'" – so many places in the Bible we've heard that phrase. 'I will recompense you!' 'I will give you what you deserve!' "…'And you shall not commit lewdness in addition to all your abominations.'" – in other words, 'this will end!' 'Your whoredoms will end!' 'And in the end you will come back to the true God, and beg for forgiveness and you will be forgiven, and you will start up anew in the Kingdom of God. In the Millennium, under the leadership of God the Father and Jesus Christ and all the resurrected saints and the great angelic throne. And you will finally learn how to live according to My ways!' **Verse 44** – "'Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: 'Like mother, like daughter!'" – again, very powerful Words! So, let's skip down to **Verse 59** –"For thus says the Lord GOD: 'I will deal with you as you have done, …'" – once again, you're going to be payed – you're going to be rewarded – or, you're going to be punished, exactly the way you deserve. "…'who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.'" – that ancient marriage covenant. But again, there's a redemption on the other side, there's healing on the other side. **Verse 60** – "'Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the

days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.'" – that's the Millennium. That's the government of God. That's the Family of God.

Ezekiel 18 – Verse 30 – one more time this DIRECT WARNING FROM GOD! In the end there will be justice. In the end all of the Books will balance. In the end there will be ATONEMENT! And He says, "'Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,' says the Lord GOD. 'REPENT, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. **31**) Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.'" – A direct illusion TO THE NEW COVENANT! Speaking of the New Covenant, we need to look to the New Covenant and not the Old Covenant. "…'For why should you die, O house of Israel?'" – if you live according to the Old Covenant, you will die! If you live according to the New Covenant you will live for all eternity. **Verse 32** – "'For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,' says the Lord GOD. 'Therefore turn and live!'" – LIVE THE PRECEPTS OF THE NEW COVENANT AND LIVE under the Priesthood of Jesus Christ and you will live! But if you live by the Old Covenant and the old ways you won't make it. THUS SAYS GOD!

Ezekiel 20 – notice Verse 8 – here God had attempted the children of Israel to go into the Promised Land. **Verse 9** – "'But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, …'" – think of all the miracles that took place during the time of the Passover in leaving Egypt. Powerful miracles. **Verse 10** – "'Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.'" – so, that was physical Israel leaving slavery to go – eventually – into the Promised Land. The analogy is: Now God is working with the members of a spiritual Israel. Members of the true Church, in whose Spirit resides and Truth. And for those people, God will take out of the bondage of being human, and temporary, and mortal, and releasing them to live for all eternity in the Kingdom of God. And that's the analogy of the Old compared to the analogy of the New. **Verse 11** – "'And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them.'" – and then, notice verse 12 – Now, there might be some of you who read these notes, who may find what I say different and unique, and some of you are still clinging to your old Protestant or Catholic roots, or other religious roots. And some of you might read this and you are still fixated on the idea that in the Bible the weekly day of church is Sunday. And, let me tell you again, I've spoke of this before, nowhere in the Bible does it say that Sunday is the day of worship. Over and over, dozens and dozens and scores of times the Bible talks about the Sabbath – the Sabbath is not Sunday. The Sabbath is the seventh-day of the week. It's what we call in our Western culture, Saturday. He says in **Verse 12** – "'Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them. **13**) Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; …'" **Verse 16** – "'because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, …'" – they did not

follow the Laws of God. "…'but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.'" – false religion. False religious ideas. **Verse 18** – "'But I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols.'" – with their false religion. **Verse 19** – "'I am the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; …'" – OBEY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! **Verses 20-22, 24** – "'because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, …'" – they did not keep the Ten Commandments. "…'profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols [false religion]'" Now, I've had people say, "What you're saying makes sense. And I can't discount it, but my father was a member of such-and-such church. Of a Catholic church or a Protestant church. And I've got to go with my father and my mother. I mean, God says, 'Honor thy father and thy mother!'" Well, honor thy father and thy mother when their right! But if their blatantly wrong, opposing the Word of God, then it's incumbent upon you to make a change! Recall that song by Michael Jackson, "Man In the Mirror," with the lyrics "I'm gonna make a change For once in my life." Look into your Bible and realize that the Bible talks about keeping the Sabbath! I know that's odd to so many people! Because they've grown up in a culture in which they, sort-of, pay lip-service on Sunday – but everything else is just do what you want. But folks, that's what the Bible says! I don't want you to die. I don't want to die.

And the only way that I can ensure that both you and I have a chance at eternal life is if we live in the concepts and precepts of the New Covenant with Jesus Christ as our High Priest and the basis of our lives are on the Law of the Ten Commandments. That's THE FOUNDATION upon which we stand! And, the leadership and the guidance of Jesus Christ! That's where our focus is. Now I continually speak of the Word of God, the Truth of God, and the Plan of God. And we should focus on what Jesus said, "'Feed My sheep!'" Again, I've been speaking on the meaning and the Biblical authority of the Day of Atonement – which is prophetically linked with the Day of the Lord. Now, I think each holy day has different meanings – different layers of meaning – and so with the Day of Atonement. But the ultimate meaning of the Day of Atonement is symbolic of the Day of the Lord – that is the day when Jesus Christ and God the Father (the realm of GOD) comes to this Earth and They exact justice. The books will finally be balanced, of good and evil, of justice and injustice. It is the final accounting of mankind's sins. And, it is a day of judgment upon all facets of the earth. And Jesus Christ will literally come face to face with human beings, and there will be a big-time accounting. And, I've been trying to say, and some may not believe me, and some may not understand what I am saying, but the majority of the Bible is prophecy or has a prophetic nature to it– the vast majority. And, the vast majority of those prophecies, maybe upwards of 90%, deal with the Day of the Lord. Now, this has never been taught in the generations of the different manifestations of the churches of God. It's never been understood. And for many of you whose roots go back to the Worldwide Church of God, you might very well find yourself saying, "Wait a

minute. Herbert never taught that. Ted never taught that." And, the answer is, "Yes, you're correct!" They never did teach about this because, quite frankly, and in my opinion – the only thing I can conclude is – they simply did not understand it. Now I have every reason to believe, that had they understood it, they would have talked about it. But quite frankly, the Worldwide Church of God dismissed the magnity of the Day of the Lord. Just said that it was a relatively minor event, just a passing event.

Well, it is relatively short in time, but it is the most traumatic event the Earth will have ever gone through when this thing is over with! And it effects everyone who will be living upon the face of the Earth! Now, hopefully, just BEFORE the Day of the Lord, many of us – who profess and hope that we have God's Spirit and that our names are written into the Book of Life – will be resurrected from a mortal human existence into an immortal eternal spiritual existence. And that is the hope of eternal life promised so many times in the pages of the Bible.

Now, this series of notes have not gone over all of the Scriptures which deal with the Day of the Lord. And in truth I've only covered a tiny portion – maybe dented it just a bit. There is so much more to go over. However, this is vital information that has never been explained, never been understood, never been taught, in the hallways of the churches of God. And, by going over these notes, you're going to see passages which you've heard – you've heard different minister's talk about – but which you've never understood, or really had the slightest meaning about what it was talking about. It just, sort-of, sounded like "Old Testament stuff." Well, all of a sudden these verses which have been oblique at best in your mind will become crystal clear as to their meaning. Now, to those who continually say to me, "People don't need to hear downtrodden messages, they need to hear happy things, and joyous things, and uplifting things!"

Well, I think of **Isaiah 30** - beginning with **Verse 9** – "'That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; **10**) Who say to the seers [to the preachers, the prophets], 'Do not see,' And to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. **11**) Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel [Jesus Christ, Himself] To cease from before us.'" – basically this is what happened to me with a particular group from 2003 to 2012. They didn't want to be confronted with what the Word of God says, even with the profound meanings of the Day of the Lord! Which is what I was doing. "But just prophesy smooth things." "Easy things, just prophesy candy, and think of the church people as children who want their new lollipop or gumdrops or their new juicy fruits." "But whatever you do, don't give us real solid meat from the Word of God!" Well, I'm sorry brethren, I reject what you attempted to do to me, and Jesus Christ is still with me, and to the best of my ability I will continue to teach from the Word of God – all of the Word of God! Including those things which talk about the Day of Atonement – the Day of the

Lord. The day when God Almighty and Jesus Christ visit this Earth in a time of judgment, in a time of justice.

Also turn to **Jeremiah 5, verse 31** – "'The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. …'" – and in today's world we don't use the terms 'prophets' and 'priests,' we use the word ministers. There are ministers, in important places, and even though they try to come across as charming and also humble, and gentle, they prophesy candy and sweet things, they are prophesying falsely. Because the truth of the Bible is not candy and sweet things – but the DAY OF THE LORD! Which is soon to come upon this Earth.

Also turn to **1st Timothy – chapter 4**, beginning in **verse 1** – "Now the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, **2**) speaking lies in hypocrisy, …'" – and what happened to me - where it was said to me, "I am going to do everything within my power to destroy you, and the church in Owensboro!" I would rather have a rattle snake for a friend. "…'having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, …'" – and I think because of God's Spirit he didn't want me anywhere around them. Well, you would think I was a ten-horned demon.

In the end, the truth will come out. And I will live quite peacefully knowing that I have served my Creator and Savior, and that my life is in Their hands. And my fate is in Their hands. So, going again to some of the passages which talk about the Day of the Lord. And, these are just notes, not anything closely related to in depth. Just some of the chief places – some of the Books that talk about the Day of the Lord in different ways. **Deuteronomy 31:16** – "And the LORD said to Moses: 'Behold, you will rest ['you're going to go to sleep] with your fathers; and this people [this nation called ISRAEL] will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them." And, **Verse 17**, God's ultimate punishment for this act of rebellion over centuries and centuries – "'Then My anger shall be aroused against them IN THAT DAY, …'" – in the Bible – not every time, but, the vast majority of the time – when you see the phrase "in that day" that is referring to the Day of the Lord. Now, sometimes "in that day" refers to the events just following the Day of the Lord, in which God begins to set up the Kingdom of God, in the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. It's like two different sides of the same coin. "…'and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say IN THAT DAY, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?'" – 'God has left us!' **Verse 18** – "'And I will surely hide My face IN THAT DAY because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.'" – so, even back in the writings of Moses you have references to the Day of the Lord. **Isaiah 1:20** – now if you refuse and rebel, if you refuse to hear the Word of God and the Truth of God and the Plan of God, "'But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword [warfare].'" **Isaiah 2:11** – "The lofty looks of

man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the LORD alone shall be exalted IN THAT DAY [the Day of the Lord]. **12**) For THE DAY OF THE LORD of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up – And it shall be brought low … **17**) The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone will be exalted IN THAT DAY, **18**) But the idols He shall utterly abolish." **19**) They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the LORD And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily." – in THE DAY OF THE LORD and the events leading up to it there will be many violent earthquakes upon our planet.

Depiction of the emblems of Ishtar (Venus), Sin (Moon), and Shamash (Sun) on a boundary stone of Meli-Shipak II (12th century BCE)

Modern Islamic flag - *Allah* as a lunar deity (?)

Also notice **chapter 3, Verse 7** – "IN THAT DAY he will protest, saying, 'I cannot cure your ills, For in my house is neither food nor clothing; Do not make me a ruler of the people.' **8**) For Jerusalem stumbled, And Judah is fallen, Because their tongue and their doings Are against the LORD, To provoke the eyes of His glory."

And, again here, these are just a few, to try to show you that there are great portions of the Bible which talk about the Day of the Lord and prophecy that we need to explore. **Verse 18**; King James English– "IN THAT DAY the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls [scarves or veils], and their round tires like the moon [the crescents]" **Verse 25** – "Your men shall fall by the sword, And your mighty in the war. **26**) Her gates shall lament and mourn, And she being desolate shall sit on the ground." – now one of the Books of the Bible is called Lamentations. Lamenting, mourning. And I've asked the question: What are they lamenting!? And, yes, there were some events back in that day – but prophetically – the lamenting in the Book of Lamentations is about the Day of the Lord. An event which is yet to come!

The Books will finally be balanced

Chapter 4, Verse 1 – "And IN THAT DAY seven women shall take hold of one man, …" - meaning, so many men will have been killed, that there will be a great majority of women and very few men because they've been killed in warfare and sickness and plague and all manner of horrible things. **Verse 2** – "IN THAT DAY the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; …" – again, this is talking about the backside of the Day of the Lord, which is the establishment of the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 5, Verse 20 – and this is a verse I often mention. In the eyes of God – especially concerning His so-called ministers – He says in verse 20, "'Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! **21**) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!'" **Verse 24** – "…'Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel.'" **Verse 30** – "'IN THAT DAY they will roar against them Like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks to the land, Behold, darkness and sorrow; And the light is darkened by the clouds.'"

Chapter 13, Verse 6 – "Wail, for THE DAY OF THE LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. **7**) Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, **8**) And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames." **Verse 9** – "Behold, THE DAY OF THE LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it." – It's a day of judgment upon the Earth! **Verse 13** – "'Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, …'" – talking about earthquakes. "…'In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.'" – the Day of the Lord!

Isaiah 22:4 – "Therefore I said [Isaiah speaking when he sees these things in vision], 'Look away from me, I will weep bitterly; Do not labor to comfort me Because of the plundering of the daughter of my people.' **5**) For it is A DAY OF TROUBLE …" – now, you've heard the expression Jesus Christ talking about 'a day of tribulation,' well, that word just means troubles. And here is what Isaiah says, it's a day of just tremendous troubles!

The vast majority of the Bible is talking about the DAY OF THE LORD! And yet, the leaders of the Worldwide Church of God and the churches which came from it, have never put this together! Well, I'm blessed and I'm humbled to realize that God has shown this to me.

Chapter 30, Verse 25 – "There will be on every high mountain And on every high hill Rivers and streams of waters, IN THE DAY OF THE GREAT SLAUGHTER, …" – that's another name for the Day of the Lord.

Chapter 34, Verse 8 – "For it is THE DAY OF THE LORD'S VENGENCE, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion." **Verse 9** – "Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust shall become burning pitch. **10**) It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever." – and this is talking about TURKEY! Turkey, one of the Islamic nations! A Sunni nation, who horribly betrays the nation of Israel as they try to escape in the future. Turkey will be punished by God by complete destruction! This is one of the prophecies concerning the Day of the Lord!

Chapter 61, Verse 2 – now, this is interesting, these are some of the same Words spoken of by Jesus Christ! And He actually quoted verse 1 and stopped before following up with verse 2. "To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, …" – He did mention that, but then stopped. "…'And THE DAY OF VENGENCE OF OUR GOD; …" – now, the 'acceptable year of the LORD' is the establishment of the Millennium, of the Kingdom of God. But before that will come 'the day of vengeance of our God.' So, He was selective in what He had quoted when He stood up that day in the temple.

Jeremiah 12, Verse 3 – "But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart toward You. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for THE DAY OF SLAUGHTER." – once again we hear the Day of the Lord.

Chapter 16, Verse 18 – "'And first I will repay double for their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable idols.'"

Chapter 17, Verse 17 – "Do not be a terror to me; You are my hope in the DAY OF DOOM." – and that's what all of us should think! If the return of Jesus Christ is a decade away or less (10-years) there's a good chance a lot of us will be here when it happens! The only thing that will protect you – in that time of trouble – will be you having a close connection with the living Jesus Christ. And that's what he's saying here. **Verse 18** – "Let them be ashamed who persecute me, But do not let me be put to shame; Let them be dismayed, But do not let me be dismayed. Bring on them the DAY OF DOOM, And destroy them with double destruction!" – so, Jeremiah he had troubles with people trying to cause him a hard time. That was his prayer for them.

Chapter 46, Verse 10 – "'For this is THE DAY OF THE LORD GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries. The sword shall devour; It shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood; For the Lord GOD of hosts has a sacrifice In the north country by the River Euphrates.'" – that sounds like it could be IRAQ. Remember, in the end-time the Arab and Islamic nations will, basically, be decimated by the hand and the direction of Jesus Christ! He is probably determined that their religion is so apart from the true religion – and the people who get sucked into that religion – their minds become so hardened, that when He returns He's not going to waste

a bunch of time trying to convert them, He's just going to have them eliminated! And then, in the "Great White Throne Judgment," a thousand years later, He will bring them back to life and the earth will have lived under the rulership of Jesus Christ for a thousand years – and then He will attempt to change those hearts and minds. But, at the end of their life, if they do not change – after being told the truth of God and having it made clear to them – then they will face the lake of fire – the final death.

Chapter 51, Verse 2 – "'And I will send winnowers [winds] to Babylon [think IRAQ, think Bagdad], Who shall winnow [blow] her and empty her land. For in THE DAY OF DOOM They shall be against her all around.'" – think of the Islamic world.

Lamentations 1:3 – "Judah has gone into captivity, Under affliction and hard servitude; She dwells among the nations, She finds no rest; All her persecutors overtake her in dire straits." – now, this did take place in 605 B.C.! THIS WILL HAPPEN AGAIN! So, many prophecies are dual – they have an earlier fulfillment, and they have a much larger, more significant fulfillment in the latter days! And this will be one of those latter days fulfillments. **Verse 12** – "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see If there is any sorrow like my sorrow, Which has been brought on me, Which the LORD has inflicted In THE DAY OF HIS FIERCE ANGER." – the Day of the Lord!

Chapter 2, Verse 1 – "How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion With a cloud in His anger! He cast down from heaven to the earth The beauty of Israel, And did not remember His footstool IN THE DAY OF HIS ANGER." – 'In the day of His anger' is the Day of the Lord! Verse 5 – "The Lord was like an enemy. He has swallowed up ISRAEL, … And has increased mourning and lamentation In the daughter of Judah." **Verse 21** – "'Young and old lie On the ground in the streets; My virgins and my young men Have fallen by the sword; You have slain them in THE DAY OF YOUR ANGER, You have slaughtered and not pitied.'" – now, 'pray not for this people' is indeed a Message from the Bible.

Also, **Ezekiel 7:19** – "'They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them IN THE DAY OF THE WRATH OF THE LORD; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.'"

Chapter 13, Verse 5 – "'You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle ON THE DAY OF THE LORD.'" – again, a direct reference to the Day of the Lord.

Chapter 30, Verse 3 – "'For the day is near, Even the DAY OF THE LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles.'" – because for a time the Gentiles will have seem to have taken over ISRAEL and JUDAH. But it doesn't last very long.

Notes Regarding The Day of Atonement – Prophetically the Day of the LORD!

Hosea 5:9 – "'Ephraim [think United Kingdom] shall be desolate in THE DAY OF REBUKE; Among the tribes of Israel I make known what is sure.'"

Joel – the Book of Joel – is a very definitive chapter that links the concept of the Day of the Lord and the Day of Atonement. Joel is one of the so-called "minor" prophets, and there are 12 so-called "minor" prophets. Now, they're "minor" because they are relatively short but their Message is not minor. Nine of the twelve "minor" prophets deal with some degree or another with the Day of the Lord. And here in the Book of Joel it's very frank – the connection with the Day of Atonement and the Day of the Lord.

Joel 1: beginning with **verses 1, 4** – "'What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left; the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.'" – in other words, He's talking about an insect infestation that's basically denuded the landscape. **Verses 5-6** – "'Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth. **6**) For a nation has come up against My land, …'" – and these, again, are Gentile armies. "…'Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.'" **Verse 7** – "'He has laid waste My vine [the people of Israel and Judah], And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white. **8**) Lament …'" **Verses 9-13, 14** – "'Consecrate a fast [very symbolic of the Day of Atonement] …'" **Verse 15** – "'Alas for the day! For THE DAY OF THE LORD is at hand; [again, a direct reference to the Day of the Lord!] It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.'" **Verses 16-18, 19** – "O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire [again, fire in reference to the Day of the Lord] has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.'"

Chapter 2, Verse 1 – "'Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING, …'" – once again, the Day of the Lord! There's no fogginess about what this is talking about! **Verse 2** – "'A day of darkness and gloominess. A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong [again, Gentile armies; the invading armies], The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. **3**) A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. **4**) Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. **5**) With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array. **6**) Before them [speaking of the ARMY OF GOD – and most likely, the resurrected saints of God coming to the rescue of the people of Israel and Judah –] the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color [the Gentile armies and most likely the Arab and Islamic armies which they are taking on]. **7**) They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war;

The Books will finally be balanced

Every one marches in formation. And they do not break ranks." – I know of a psalm that the Worldwide Church of God use to sing - a song written by Dwight Armstrong – Blow The Horn, Let Zion Hear!, which takes this section of the Bible and made a psalm. And the psalm is set to, sort-of, an upbeat tempo, and the people would sing it like, "O' isn't this a joyous thing!?" They didn't have a clue of what they were singing! This is not a time of joy or happiness, this is a part of THE DAY OF THE LORD! When millions and millions of people are going to be destroyed! **Verse 8** – again, this same ARMY OF GOD – "'They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between weapons, They are not cut down.'" – again, these are not human beings they're spirit beings. **Verse 9** "'They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief.'" Now we're back to the Day of the Lord – **Verse 10** – "'The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The Sun and Moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. **11**) The LORD gives voice before His army, …'" – and we were just reading about His army (verses 6-9). "…'For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His Word. For THE DAY OF THE LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?'" **Verse 12** – He changes tenses here, talking about AFTER the Day of the Lord – "'Now, therefore,' says the LORD, 'Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting [again, a reference to the Day of Atonement], with weeping, and with mourning.'" – **Verse 13** – this is talking about a time following the Day of the Lord where God Almighty and Jesus Christ start to reach out to the children of Israel and the children of Judah – showing them that now they're going to be protected. They've been punished, now they're going to be taken care of. **Verses 14-17**. Now **Verses 18-29** – are talking about the Millennium. Beginning with **Verse 30**, this goes back to the vengeful part of the Day of the Lord. "'And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. **31**) The Sun shall be turned into darkness, And the Moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome DAY OF THE LORD.'" – so we know that there will be many frightening signs at the time of the Day of the Lord.

Chapter 3, Verse 1 – "'For behold, in those days, and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, …'" – this is during the Day of the Lord! Where the people are being punished. **Verses 2-8**. **Verses 9-14** gets back into warfare.

So, here we see, not just here, but many portions of this Book are talking about the Day of the Lord and the warfare, and the blood shedding. And it also several times links it with 'call a fast.' So again, the Day of the Lord – prophetically linked with the Day of Atonement.

Amos 5:18; remember Jonah. Jonah wanted to see death and destruction. It was Nineveh's 'day of the Lord.' But they repented. And God changed His mind. And Jonah was just all broken up. **Verse 20**.

Obadiah 15; that once again – throughout the Bible – this principle that God talks about: It will be recompensed unto you, the way you deserve it. And those which deserve to be punished will be punished. And those that deserve to die will die. And those which deserve to be saved, will be saved.

Zephaniah 1:7-9; again, evil people will be rewarded. **Verses 14-18**. **Zephaniah 2:1**.

Zechariah 14:1-4.

Malachi 4:1, 3, 5.

So, again, with these notes – of what I've tried to do – is to show you just a few of places in the Bible which talks about the Day of the Lord. The single most prophesied event in the Bible. I wanted to record this truth – a truth which has not been spoken about. And, you might say, "Well, it's no big thing." However, it's the most traumatic, awesome thing which will occur in the history of the Earth. This is a very big deal. And, what really makes it important, *if* the return of Jesus Christ is within the next 8-10 years, many, if not most of you who read this, will experience this. You will either be experiencing this – while being protected by Jesus Christ, or, you'll be experiencing it by being in the middle of it – without God's protection! So I pray that each and every one of you turn to Jesus Christ, and ask that He grant you His Spirit, that He grant you His Truth, His knowledge, the understanding of His Plan, and I ask that you pray that He protect you through all of these horrible things.

Owensboro Church of Jesus Christ is based upon the WORD of God, the TRUTH of God, and the PLAN of God. Our mission and our purpose is to follow the admonition of Jesus Christ, when He said, "'FEED MY SHEEP'" We do the will of God the Father and Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ, of His forgiveness, of His atoning sacrifice, of the opportunity for us all to have Jesus Christ as our great High Priest and to live under the promises of the New Covenant, and to someday be a part of the glorious Kingdom of God!

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